A TREATISE

OF COMMERCE, WHERIN ARE SHEWED THE COMMODIES ARISING BY A WEL ORDERED, AND RVLED TRADE,

Such as that of the Societie of Merchantes Adventurers is proved to bee, written principallie for the better information of those who doubt of the *Necessarienes of the said Societie in the State of the Realme of Englande*,

BY IOHN WHEELER, Secretarie to the said Societie.

MIDDELBVRGH,
By *Richard Schilders*, Printer to the States of Zeland.
1601.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR ROBERT CECILL KNIGHT, PRINcipall Secretarie to her *Maiestie, &c.*

THOSE which heretofore (Right Honorable) haue written of anie matter, and had opinion, that the publishinge thereof might doe good vnto others, haue vsed to Dedicate their Labours to some one, or other, vnder whose counenance, and protection the same might go foorth, and bee the better lyked, and receyued of all men: Whiche is the cause that I haue made bolde to inscribe this TREATISE,

ſuch as it is, vnto your Honour, vpon hope of fauourable allowance, and Patronage, whiche I inſtantlie craue, and entreat, and with all, that in the readinge thereof, your Honour would voucheſaufe to remember, that it concerneth thoſe men, and that olde and auncientlie renoumpned Companie of MERCHAVNTES ADVENTVRERS, which was ſo well eſteemed of, and highlie fauoured by your late right Honorable Father, of woorthie memorie, vnto whome as God hath appointed your Honour to be a Succeſſour in manie excellent thinges of this life, whether wee regarde the Honourable Places, wherevnto you are called in the Gouuernement of the State, or the vertues, and qualities fitt for ſo waightie a callinge, wherewith you are endewed, So it may pleaſe your Honour to take vnto you this Succeſsion alſo, to witte, the dewtifull Obſervancie, and Promptitude, which the ſaid Companie alwayes ſhewed towardes your ſaid right Honourable Fathers ſeruice,

and

and which they alſo ſtande readie, and deſi-rous to preſent, & performe vnto your Ho-nour to their beſt power, and abilitie.

I am not ignorant alſo, that it is the man-ner of Writers, to fill vp the greateſt parte of their Præfaces with the praiſes, and cõmen-dations of thoſe, to whome they Dedicate their Trauailes, and ſurelie this Reward ſee-meth to bee dew vnto true Vertue, that the Memorie thereof ſhould bee conſecrated to Poſteritie, which can not be performed by anie Monument better, then by Bookes: And albeit, without all Gloſinge, or coun-terfeyting, I haue heere in verie deed a large fielde of your Honours prayſes offered vn-to mee, yet becauſe my ſimplicitie not one-lie abhorreth all Adulation, but with all all kinde of Fawninge, or flatteringe ſpeeche, and that your Honours ſingulare Modeſtie, is wonte, not to abide anie thing leſſe, then euen the modeſteſt commendations, I will lett paſſe the ſame, and come vnto the han-dlinge of the enſuing Treatice, which with

my

my ſelfe I humblie recommende vnto your Honours good fauour, and ſo beſeeche the Almightie to bleſſe, and keepe your Honor. *Middelbrough* the vi^th^ of Iune 1601.

Your Honors with his
ſeruice at commandment,

Iohn Wheeler.

A Treatiſe of Commerce, wherein are ſhewed the commodities ariſing by a well ordred and ruled Trade, ſuch as that of the Societie of *MARCHANTS ADVENTVRERS* is prooved to bee, Written principallie for the better *information of thoſe who doubt of the Neceſſarienes of the ſaid Societie in the ſtate of the Realme of England.* By IOHN WHEELER, *Secretarie to the ſaide Societie.*

Vita Civilis in Societate eſt, Societas in Imperio, & Commercio.

Commercio Gentes mare, montibuſq; diſcretæ miſcentur, vt quod vſquã naſcitur, apud omnes affluat.

THERE be twoo pointes about the which the Royal office, and adminiſtration of a Prince, is wholy employed, to wit, about the Gouuernement of the Perſons of men, next of Things cõvenient and fitt for the maintenaunce of Humane ſocietie: wherein principally the civile life conſiſteth, and hath her being: And therefore the Prince that loveth the Policie, and ruleth by

ſage and good councell, is to conſtitute and appoint certaine Lawes, and ordinarie Rules, both in the one and the other of the abouesaid pointes, and eſpecial-lie in the firſt, as the chiefeſt, which is cõverſant and occupied about the inſtitutiõ of the perſons of men in Pietie, civile converſation in maners, and facion of life, and finallie in the mutual dewtie of Equitie, and Charitie one towardes another: of the which my purpoſe is not to intreat, but ſomewhat of that other point, namely the gouvernement of Things convenient, and fitt for the maintenance of Humane Societie: wherevnto mens actions and affections are chieflie directed, and whereabouts they beſtow and employe not onely the quickenes and induſtrie of their ſpirites, but alſo the labour and travaile of their handes, and ſides: that ſo they may drawe from thence either commoditie or pleaſure, or at leaſtwiſe therby ſupplie, helpe, & furniſh their ſeveral wantes, and neceſſities: From hence, as from a root or fountaine firſt proceedeth the eſtate of *Marchandiſe*, and then conſequentlie in a rowe, ſo manie, diverſe, and ſundrie Artes, as weſee in the worlde. At which it ſhould ſeeme that man beginneth the train, or courſe of his life, and therein firſt of all diſcovereth not onlie the dexteritie and ſharpenes of his witt, but withall that naughtines & corruption which is naturallie in him: for there is nothing in the world ſo ordinarie, and naturall vnto men, as to contract, truck, merchandiſe, and trafficque one with an other, ſo that it is almoſt vnpoſſible for three perſons to converſe together

gether two houres, but they wil fall into talke of one bargaine or another, chopping, changing, or some other kinde of contract. Children, assoone as euer their tongues are at libertie, doe season their sportes with some merchandise, or other, and whē they goe to schoole, nothing is so common among them, as to chaunge, and rechaunge, buye and sell of that, which they bring from home with them: the Prince with his subiects, the Maister with his seruants, one freend and acquaintaunce with another, the Captaine with his souldiers, the Husband with his wife, Women with, and among them selues, and in a woord, all the world choppeth and chaungeth, runneth and raveth after Martes, Markettes, and Marchandising, so that all things come into Commerce, and passe into Traficque (in a maner) in all times, and in all places: not onely that, which Nature bringeth foorth, as the fruites of the earth, the beastes, and living creatures with their spoiles, skinnes, and cases, the metalles, mineralles, & such like things, but further also, this man maketh merchandise of the workes of his owne handes, this man of another mans labour, one selleth woordes, another maketh trafficque of the skins, and blood of other men, yea there are some foūd so subtill and cunning merchantes, that they perswade and induce men to suffer them selves to bee bought and solde, and we haue seene in our time enowe, and too manie, whiche haue made marchandise of mens soules: to conclude, all that a man worketh with his hand, or discourseth in his spirit, is nothing else but

marchandiſe, and a triall to put in practiſe the Contractes, which the Legiſtes & men ſkilful in the lawes knew not to name otherwiſe thē thus: *Do vt des Facio vt facias*: the which wordes in effect comprehend in them all Negotiations, or Traffiques whatſoeuer, and are none other thing but meer matter of marchandiſe, and Commerce. Now albeit this affection be in all perſons generallie both high and low, yet there are of the notableſt, and principalleſt Traffiquers which are ashamed, and thinke ſcorne to bee called Marchants: whereas in deede Marchandiſe which is vſed by way of proper vacatiō, being rightlie conſidered of, is not to be deſpiſed, or accoumpted baſe by men of iudgement, but to the contrarie, by manie reaſons and examples it is to be prooued, that the eſtate is honorable, & may bee exerciſed not only of thoſe of the third eſtate (as we tearme them) but alſo by the Nobles, and chiefeſt men of this Realme with commendable profite, and without anie derogation to their Nobilities, high Degrees, & conditions: With what great good to their States, honors, & enriching of themſelues and their Counreis, the *Venetians*, *Florētines*, *Genoueſes*, and our neighbours the *Hollanders*, haue vſed this trade of life, who knoweth not? or hauing ſeene the beautie, ſtrength, opulencie, and populouſenes of the abouesaid Cities, and Provinces wondreth not thereat? Was not this the firſt ſteppe, and entrie of the Kinges of *Portugall* vnto the kingdomes, and Riches of [illegible] *Solon* in his youth, gaue him ſelfe to the [illegible]

Cōmendation of Marchandiſe.

Cratis-

chandiſe, and in his time ſaith *Plutarch* (bringing *Heſiodus* for his Authour) there was none eſtate of life reprochfull, neither Art, or occupation, that did put difference betweene men, but rather which is more, *Merchandiſe* was accompted an honourable thing, as that whiche miniſtred the meanes to haunt, and trafficque with Barbarous Nations, to procure the friendſhip of Princes, and to gaigne experience in many matters: in ſo much (ſayeth hee) that there haue been Merchants, which were founders of great Cities, as he was that founded *Marſeilles* in France: The wiſe *Thales Mileſius* did alſo exerciſe Merchandiſe, likewiſe *Hippocrates* and *Plato* defrayed the charges of a voyage, whiche hee made in *Egypt*, with the monie which he got there by ſelling of oyle: So that it appeareth, that not onely a Prince may vſe this kinde of men, I meane Merchantes, to the great benefite, and good of his ſtate, either for forreigne intelligence, or exploration, or for the opening of an entrie and paſſage vnto vnknowen and farre diſtant partes, or for the furniſhing of monie, and other proviſions in time of warres, and dearth, or laſtly, for the ſervice and honor of the Prince, and Coũtrie abroad at all times requiſite, and expedient, but alſo this kinde of life may be exerciſed and vſed with commendation, and without loſſe of one jote of honor in thoſe, who are honorable, or of eminent degree, as aforeſaid: Whereunto I adde this further, that without Merchandiſe, no eaſe or commodious living continueth long in anie ſtate, or common

Plut. in vita Solonis.

wealth, no not loyaltie, or equitie it ſelfe, or vpright dealing. Therfore herein alſo, as in the former point, good order and rule is to be ſet, where it is wanting, or where it is alreadie eſtabliſhed, there it ought to be preſerved: for the maintenance of ſo neceſſarie, and beneficiall an eſtate in the common Wealth, by conſtituting meet and well proportioned ordinaces ouer the ſame, & ouer thoſe things, which are thereupon depending, betweene the Marchantes, and thoſe things, which are marchandized, or handled likewiſe with cõvenable, and well appropriated Magiſtrates, and overſeers for the maintenance, and execution of the ſaid ordinances. For it is very certain and true, that *ſine imperio nec domus vlla, nec Civitas, nec Gens, nec Societas, nec hominum vniuerſum genus ſtare, nec rerum natura omnis, nec Mundus ipſe poteſt, &c.*

The peaceable, politike, and Riche Prince King *Henrie* the ſeventh, well marking the trueth hereof, and perceiuing that as in former times, ſo in his, manie diſturbances, grievances and damages had befallen to, and among the Engliſhe Merchantes his ſubiectes, trading into the lowe Countries, *ob defectum boni Regiminis*, tooke order for the ſame, as well by confirming the auncient Charters of his Predeceſſours, Kings of England vnto the Societie of M. M. Adventurers, as alſo by adding therevnto newe, whereby he ſo ſtrengthned, and enlarged the authoritie, and Priviledges of the ſaide Fellowſhippe, that euer ſince the ſame hath floriſhed in great proſperitie, and wealth, and out of it (as out of a plentifull

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Noureerie) haue ſprong and proceeded almoſt all the principall Merchants of this Realm, at leaſt ſuch Companies, as haue ariſen ſince, haue for the moſt part, fetched their light, patterne, and forme of policie and trade from the ſaid Societie to the ineſtimable good and commoditie of this Realme, our natiue Countrie: ſo that to change this courſe were to returne to the olde cõfuſion, and diſorder, and withall to bereave the lande of ſo neceſſarie and ſeruiceable an eſtate, as *Merchandiſe is.*

Whatſoever is commendable, or is ſaid of the beſt founded Companies, or Merchauntes in generall, maketh alſo for the Companie of Merchantes Aduenturers ſpeciallie: howbeit theſe things are particularlie for our purpoſe to be conſidered in this Cõpanie: *The firſt Inſtitution: The Auncient eſtimation it hath had: The ſtate and Gouvernement of it, and ſuch benefites, as growe to the Realme by the maintenance of it.*

Of the firſt Inſtitution of the Fellowſhippe or Companie of Marchantes Adventurers, and the cauſes thereof.

MARCVS *Cato*, a prudent Councellour, and a good huſband in deed, ſaith: *Quod oportet Patremfamilias vendacem eſſe non emacem:* And who knoweth not, that we haue no ſmal need of manie things, whereof foreign

reign Countreis haue great ſtore, and that we may well ſpare manie thinges, whereof the ſaide Countries haue alſo need: Nowe to vent the ſuperfluities of our Countrie, and bring in the Commodities of others, there is no readier, or better meane then by merchãdize: and ſeeing we haue no way to increaſe our treaſure by mynes of golde, and ſiluer at home, and can haue nothing from abroad without monie, or ware, it followeth neceſſarilie, that the aboueſaid good councell of *Cato* to be ſellers and not buyers, is to be followed, yet ſo, that we carrie not out more in valew ouer the ſeas, then we bring home frõ thence, or tranſporte thinges hurtfull to the State, for this were no good huſbandry, but tẽdeth to the ſubverſion of the lande, and deminiſhing of the treaſure therof, whereas by the other wee ſhall greatlie encreaſe it, the trade being caried, and managed vnder a convenient Gouvernement, and orders, and not in a diſperſed, looſe, and ſtragling manner: the practiſe whereof we may ſee in this Realm almoſt theſe 400 yeares together: Firſt in the Staple, and Woolle trade, and next in that of the M.M. Adventurers, and Clothe trade. And King *Edward* the thirde thought it not enough, to bring the working, and making of Cloth into the Realme, except when the ſame was indraped, he with all provided for the vent therof, in forreigne partes, to the moſt benefite, and advancement of that new begun Art, and therefore whereas the aboueſaid Companie (though then otherwiſe learned then nowe) in the yere *1248*. had obtained

The brotherhood of Saint Thomas Becket of Canterbury.

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Privileges of *Iohn* Duke of *Brabant*, the said King cõfirmed the same for the substantial Gouvernment of the saide Companie in their trade.

In the yeare 1399. the Art of making of Clothe being growen to good perfectiõ within this Realm, King *Henrie* the Fourth first prohibited the invection of foreigne made Cloth, and gaue vnto the saide Companie a verie beneficiall, and ample Charter of priviledges, confirmed by Act of Parleament for the same purpose and intent, as his predecessor King *Edward* the third had done before him: whose example the succeedinge Kinges *Henrie* the fifth, and sixt, *Edwarde* the fourth, and *Richard* the thirde followed, ratifying and confirming their Predecessors doings on this behalfe: the next in order following King *Henrie* the seauenth, like a wise and prouident Prince, well marking, and considering howe necessarie, and serviceable the estate of *Merchandise* was vnto this Realme, not onely liked and confirmed that, which the aboue-rehearsed Kinges had done before him, but also greatlie enlarged and augmented the same by three seueral Charters, and by other his gracious, and Roiall favours from time to time, not onlie towardes the saide Companie in generall, but withall to diuerse Merchantes in particular: *Mercatores ille sæpenumero pecunia multa data gratuitò iuuabat, vt Mercatura (Ars vna omnium cunctis æquè mortalibus tum commoda, tum necessaria) in suo Regno copiosior esset.* Polidorus in vita Hẽrici septimi.

And when vpon variance fallen out betweene him and the Archduke *Philippe*, he had drawen, as wel the

ſaid Companie, as that of the Staple out of the lowe Cuntries,& placed them at *Calice*,he gaue vnto them within the ſaid Towne as large, and beneficiall priuiledges,as they before had enioyed in the ſaid lowe Countreis, which were verie large, and favourable, entituling them by the name of *MARCHANTS ADVENTVRERS*. And albeeit in this Kinges dayes,as alſo in the raign of King *Henrie* the Fourth, the like complaint, as of late, was made by the Clothiers, Woolle-growers, Dyers, &c. againſt the Companie of M.M. Adventurers: yet after dew examination of the ſaide complaint, the iſſew procured great favour to the ſaide Companie, and gaue occaſion of the enlarging of their former Charters, with an expreſſe reſtraint of all Straglers, & Entermedlers, that might diſturbe, or empeach their trade: and wheras alſo the *Eaſterlinges* at this time had entred into the ſaid trade, the foreſaid prudent Prince King *Henrie* the ſeuenth, did not onelie ſtraightlie inhibite them ſo to doe, but alſo tooke recognizãce of twẽtie thouſand markes of the Alderman of the Steelyarde at London, that the ſaid *Eaſterlinges* ſhould not carie anie Engliſh Clothe to the place of Reſidence of the M.M. Adventurers in the lowe Countreis, or open their Fardelles of Cloth in the ſaid Countries, to the preiudice of the ſaid Companie, by putting the ſame to vent there, which they were not wont to doe.

In the time of the raigne of King *Edward* the ſixth, *Iohn Tulle*, *Iohn Dimock*, and others, brethren of the ſaid Companie, enformed the Biſhop of *Elye*, at that time

time Lord Chaũcellour, of matter againſt the Companie, but their bill being brought to the Councell-boord, and examined, it was finallie ordred, that the ſaid Complainantes ſhould ſubmit themſelues vnto the obedience of the Companies orders, and paye certaine fynes, which the Lordes then laide vppon them, beſides that two of the principalleſt found to be the Ringleaders of the reſt, were committed to the Fleet, there to remain, till ſuch time as the Companie of M.M. Aduenturers ſhould ſew for their releaſe: And albeit the ſaid perſons renewed their cõplaintes, in the firſt yeare of Queene *Maries* raigne, and did put vp a bill to the Parleament houſe, againſt the Companie, yet the ſame being anſwered by the ſaid Companie, was reiected, and caſt out of the Parleament houſe. Since the time of King *Henrie* the ſeauenth, the ſucceeding Princes, Kinge *Henrie* the eight, of famous memorie, King *Edward* the ſixth, & Queene *Marie*, haue continued, confirmed, and enlarged the aboueſaide Charters and Priviledges, but aboue all other, our moſt gracious Soueraigne, that now reigneth, Queene *ELIZABETH*, hath ſhewed her gracious, and fauourable affection towardes the ſaide Companie, in not onelie confirminge the letters Patentes, and Charters of her moſt Noble Graundfather, and of other her Highnes Predeceſſours aboue-mentioned, but alſo in adding therevnto other more large, and beneficiall Priviledges of her owne. For whereas the M.M. Adventurers about the beginning of her Maieſties raigne, by diuerſe re-

ſtraintes, Edictes, and Proclamations made and ſett foorth by the Gouvernours and Commaunders of the low Countries, were empeached, and prohibited to trade into the ſaid Countreis, contrarie to the auncient Entercourſes, and the Priviledges to the ſaid Companie graunted of olde time, and conſequentlie were occaſioned to ſeeke, and erect a Trade in the partes of Germanie, which they did with their great charges and travaile for the vent of the Commodities of the Realme, her Highnes calling to remembrance this and other faithfull and acceptable ſeruice at ſundrie tymes done by the ſaid M.M. Aduenturers in diuerſe the great and waightie affaires of her Maieſtie and Realme, & minding the encreaſe and aduancement of the ſaide Merchantes, as much as anie her progenitours, (as her Highnes profeſſeth in the ſaid Charter) it pleaſed her ſaide Maieſtie in the ſixt yeare of her Raigne, to giue and graunt vnto them thoſe gracious and ample Priuiledges, which the ſaid Companie now enioyeth, and afterwardes vpon new occaſion the trade of the ſaid Companie being much empeached by the wrongful intermedling of vnfree perſons in the ſame, it pleaſed her Maieſtie by a new Charter, and letters Patentes vnder the great ſeale of Englande, in the eight-and-twentieth yere of her Raigne, to prouide againſt ſuch iniurious, & vnorderlie intruſion, acknowledging the ſeruices done to her Highnes by the ſaid M.M. Aduenturers, and pronouncing them to haue bene, and to bee very beneficiall members to the generall ſtate

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of the Realme, and Common Wealth of Englande: which notable teſtimonie of ſo incomparable a Princeſſe after ſo manie yeres experience and tryall, may alone, if there were none other, ſerue for a full & ſufficient *Apologie* of the aboueſaid Companie of M.M. Aduenturers, againſt all the privie, & open, foreign, and domeſticall gain-ſayers, ſlaunderers, and oppugners of the ſame, and withall for a certaine, and infallible argument, that for the vent of Wooll, and woollen wares (the principall commodities of the Realme) it is moſt profitable both for the Prince and Countrie, to vſe a governed Companie, and not to permitt a promiſcuous, ſtragling, & diſperſed trade, whereof I ſhall haue occaſion to ſaye more, when I come to ſhew the benefites, which doe ariſe vnto the Common Wealth of Englande, by the maintenaunce of the aboue-ſaid Companie, and the Gouuernement therein vſed.

Of the Auncient eſtimation which the Companie of Merchantes Adventurers *hath had.*

BY that which hath been aboue ſaid of the Inſtitution of the Fellowſhip or Companie of M.M. Aduēturers, is partlie ſhewed in what eſtimation the ſaid Copanie hath been hetherto, with the Kings, and Queenes of

this Realme, from the raigne of King *Edwarde* the thirde, a ſufficient motiue, and reaſon, as may be wel thought for the preſent and future ages, to haue the ſaide Companie in no leſſe eſtimation, and liking: but this is not all, for if wee would but looke out of England to our neighbours in *Germanie* and the low Coũtreis, we ſhould ſee the M.M. Aduẽturers many ages together ſought for, welcomed, embraced, cheriſhed, and vſed in as good, yea oftentimes in better tearmes, then the Naturalles of the ſaide Countries them ſelues, as appeareth by the auncient Charters, large, and beneficiall priviledges, and exemptions graunted to the ſaide Companie by ſundrie Princes, States, Cities, and Common Wealthes of high & lowe Dutcheland, ſince the yeare of our Lord 1296. to this our tyme, which are yet extant to be ſhewed to the great honour, and benefite of this our natiue Countrie, & the Princes thereof from tyme to time: For thereby we haue not onely opened a paſſage, & entrie into foreigne States, and Countreis, but alſo by our gainfull & beneficiall trade, haue made them the faſter friendes to the State of the Realme of Englande, and the Engliſh Nation, beſides the great wealth and commoditie which hath ariſen thereby to the common wealth.

After the taking of *Calice* by King *Edward* the third, the Earles, and people of Flaundres, for the better aſſeaunce and ſafetie of their State, procured a league and Entercourſe with the Kinges of Englande, and their Merchants: whereby the ſaide Earles & people found

founde in ſhort time ſuch profite and commoditie, that *Lewes* Earle of Flaunders, in the yeare 1358. gaue, and graunted to the Engliſh Merchantes ſo large and ample Priviledges, and freedomes, that no Nation in Europe had the like in that Countrie at that time, by reaſon whereof, and that the adventure by ſea and by lande into Flaunders was verie ſhort, and eaſie, and almoſt without daunger, the Companie ſettled them ſelues in the Towne of *Bridges*, and ſtapled their commodities there: Whiche once knowen, and blowen abroad, Merchantes out of all partes of Europe, reſorted thether, and made their habitation there, which appeareth by the houſes at this day ſtanding, which beare the names of the Cities, and Countreis, whence the ſaid Strangers were, So that in few yeares all the Townes in Flanders, eſpeciallie *Bridges*, were growen to ſuch wealth, and proſperitie, that the fame thereof went almoſt thorough the whole earth, and at this daye, although their great opulencie, and concourſe of Merchantes be altogether failed, yet in manie Countries of Chriſtendome, and out of Chriſtendome, all the Netherlanders carie the name of Fleminges, and the lowe Countries of Flanders. After this, when the Fleminges through wealth, and fulnes of bread, did forgett their bounden dewtie to their Prince, and withall grew to a proud deſdain & contempt of all Merchants ſtraungers, and in particular of the Engliſhe, by whom they had receiued their chiefeſt good and welfare, the Companie remooued from *Bridges* to a Town

Companie of M. M. Adventurers at Bridges.

Companie of M. M. Aduentu. leaue Bridges and repaire to Middelbourgh.

a Towne in Zelande called *Middelbourgh*, where they are nowe at this preſent reſidinge, whether all other Nations followed them ſtraight: Since which thoſe of *Bridges*, feeling the ſmart of their follie, haue manie tymes made ſute & meanes to draw the Engliſhe thether againe, and in mans memorie, they profred a great ſumme of monie vnto the ſaide Merchantes, with offer of more ample Priviledges, and immunities, then ever they had before in *Bridges*, or anie where elſe, yea in a maner they profered a blancke to tye them to what the Engliſhe thought good, to haue the trafficque againe in their Towne, which verie fondlie, when they had it, they could not keepe. This Towne of *Middelbourgh* ſtood ſo neare the ſea, that the Ditches, and low places round about it, being continuallie full of ſalte, and filthie ooze for want of a freſhe Riuer, or current, to cleanſe the ſame, bred ſuch ſtynche, and noyſome ſavours, that the Engliſhe vſed to a holeſome, and ſweet ayre in their own Cuntrey, were troubled with grievous agewes, and other ſore diſeaſes, & for their healthes ſake, were forced to leaue the ſaid Towne, about the yeare of our Lorde 1444. at which tyme *Antwerp* beeing but a poore, and ſimple Towne, ſtanding in *Brabant*, made great ſute to the Companie, to repair thether, which they finallie vpon offer of very large and beneficiall Priviledges, obtayned. In whiche Towne of *Antwerp*, and the Town of *Bergen op Zoom*, likewiſe in *Brabant*, the Cõpanie euer ſince hath for the moſt parte continued, ſaue that (as aforeſaid) in the

the time of King *Henrie* the ſeuenth, they were vpon occaſion remoued to *Calice* for a time, till that by the earneſt interceſſiō of the Ladie *Margarete* Dutches of *Savoye*, they repaired againe into the low Countries, firſt to *Middelbourgh*, thē afterwards to *Antwerp*, where they were ioyfully, & honorably receyued, & entertayned by the Magiſtrate, & chiefeſt Citizens of the Towne, comming foorth in ſolempne proceſſion to meete, & welcome the ſaid Merchants, as by the Recordes of thoſe times ſufficiently appeareth: & heere by the way it is not much from our purpoſe, to inſert ſomwhat of the ſtate of *Antwerp*, at the firſt cōming thether of the Companie, wherein a man ſhall ſee that, which almoſt is incredible: *Philippe* ſurnamed the *Good*, Duke of *Burgundie*, and of *Brabant*, *&c.* gaue Priuiledges to the Companie vnder the name of the Engliſh Nation, by which name the ſaid Companie euer ſince hath been moſt commonlie knowen in the low Countreis, whiche happened in the yeare 1446. Which Priuiledges the Towne of *Antwerpe* confirmed the fixt of Auguſt in the aboueſaid yere, giuing to them beſides a large houſe, which is nowe called the old *Burſe*, and afterwardes by exchaunge, another more goodlie, ſpacious, and ſumptuous houſe, called the Court of *Lier*, which the Companie enioyed till the ſaide Town e was yeelded vp to the Duke of *Parma*, in the yeare 1585. At the aboue ſaide firſt Concordate, & Concluſion of Priuiledges with the Town of *Antwerp*, or not long before, there were not in all the Towne aboue foure Marchants,

Eſtate of Antwerp at the Companies firſt comming thether.

and thoſe alſo no adventurers to the ſea, the reſt of the Inhabitantes or Townesmen were but meane people, and neither able, nor ſkilfull to vſe the fear, or trade of Merchandiſe, but did let out the beſt of their houſes to Engliſh-men, and other ſtraũgers for Chambers, and Packhouſes, contenting them ſelues with ſome corner for their profites ſake: but within few yeares the concourſe, and reſorte of forreigne Merchantes to that Towne was ſo great, that houſe-roome waxed ſcant, Rentes were raiſed, Tolles, Axcyſes, and all other dewties to the Prince and Town wonderfullie encreaſed, and the *Antwerp*-men themſelues, who in few yeares before were but meane artificers, or liued by huſbandrie, and keeping of Cattaile (whereof one *Gate* of that Cittie to this daye beareth the name) and had but ſix ſhippes belõging to their Towne, and thoſe for the Riuer onely, that neuer went to ſea, began to growe exceeding riche, ſo that ſome fell to the trade of Merchandiſe, and others employed their ſubſtance in building, then their olde rotten houſes couered with thatche, were pulled downe, their waſte grounde, whereof there was ſtoar within the Towne, was turned into goodlie buildinges, and faire ſtreates, and their ſhipping encreaſed accordinglie: thus proſpered not onelie thoſe of *Antwerpe*, but all other Townes, and places thereabouts, ſo that in our memorie that now liue, the ſaid Town was growen to ſuch wealth, ſtrength, and beautie, as neuer none the like in ſo ſhort a time, and no marvaile, for within the compaſſe of fiftie yeares

De Coe Poort.

yeares, ân houſe that was woorth but fortie Dallers a yeare, grew to bee woorth three hundred Dallers a yere, And an houſe that was lett out for ſixtie Dallers, came afterwardes to bee lett for foure hundred Dallers, yea ſome houſes in *Antwerpe* were lett for 600 ſome 800. Dallers a yeare rent, beſides their Hauens for ſhippes to come and lade and diſcharge within the Towne: their publike ſtately buildinges, and edifices erected partlie for ornament, and partly for the eaſe & accõmodating of the Merchant, were ſo coſtlie, and ſumptuous, as he that hath not ſeene, and marked them well, would not beleeue it: to ſay nothing of the fortification of the Towne, which is ſuch, that the charges thereof would trouble the richeſt Prince in Europe: but as the Poet *Lucane* ſaid,

A Daller is three ſhillinges ſterlinge.

Invida Fatorum ſeries ſummiſq; negatum ſtare diu.

So it fareth at this day with *Antwerpe*, for it hath within theſe few yeares ſuffered verie great chaunge and alteration, and more is like to doe, if it long continew ſhutt vp, and without trade and trafficque vnder the yoak of the Spaniard, and the feare of an impregnable Caſtle ſtuffed with ſouldiers, a ſcourge, & plague to that, and to all free Citties: thus much by the way of *Antwerp*, the late Pack-houſe of Europe, & of the ſtate thereof, when the Engliſh Marchants firſt repaired vnto it, and of the great wealth it grew vnto in a verie ſhort time, whereof the ſaide Engliſh Merchantes with their gainfull, and beneficiall trade were a great cauſe, and meanes, whiche principallie

made them to be ſo much regarded and eſteemed in the ſaid Towne, and by the Princes & Gouvernours thereof from time to time, as well appeareth, among other proofes, by this one recorded by *Sleidane*, and remembred by ſome that yet liue: The Emperour *Charles* the fifth would haue brought the *Inquiſition* into the Towne of *Antwerp*, in the yeare 1550. wherabouts there was much adoe, and great queſtion, & neither by the ſute of the Towne, nor by anie Interceſſion, or requeſt of their friendes could the ſaide Emperour be diuerted from his purpoſe: at the laſt it was ſhewed him, that if the *Inquiſitiõ* were brought in, he would driue the Engliſhe Merchantes out of that Cittie, and out of the whole low Countreis alſo, the conſequence whereof when he had well conſidered, he chaunged his minde, and ſo the Cittie of *Antwerp* was ſaued from the Inquiſition, which they ſo much feared, and by no ſute, or meanes beſides were able to put from them: of ſuch eſtimation and accoumpte were the Merchantes Aduenturers with that Mightie and Prudent Emperour, and of ſuche credite and reckoning haue they been from time to time at home with eleven Kinges, and Queenes of this Realme of Englande, and abroad with the Cities of *Bridges* in Flanders, *Antwerpe*, & *Berghen op den Zoom* in *Brabant*, *Middelburgh*, and *Ziericzee* in *Zeland*, *Amſterdam*, and *Dort* in *Hollande*, *Vtrecht* the chiefe Cittie of a Province of that name, & with the Dukes, Earles, Lordes, and Rulers of the abouesaid Cities, and Provinces lying within the low Countreis, auncient

Sleidanus 22. libro Commentariorum.

Inquiſition in Antwerp left of for the M. M. Adventurers ſake,

cient friendes, and Confederates with the Crowne of Englande: And in *Germanie* with the Townes of *Hambroughe*, and *Stade*, and the Earles of *East-friesland* since the yeare 1564. till this daye, at whiche tyme they obtayned Priviledges of the Ladie *Anne* Counteſſe of *Oldenburghe*, and her ſonnes *Edgard* and *Iohn*, wherein they call the Companie of Merchants Adventurers, *Inclitam illam & celebratam paſsim Anglicorum Mercatorum Societatem*. In all which places, and Countreis the foreſaide Companie haue ſo demeaned themſelues, that thereby they haue reaped great loue, credite, fame, and commendation, and haue left behind them a longing for them againe in thoſe places, where they once reſided, or helde their Martes, and procured a deſire of them in many places, where they neuer were: whiche appeareth by the honorable Teſtimonie giuen of the Companie by the aboue ſaide Townes, and forreigne Princes abroad, and is otherwiſe well knowen to thoſe, who knowe anie thing of the doeings of our neighbours. And latelie when through the malicious, and iniurious working of a fewe of the *Hanſe Townes* inſtigated and holpen forward by the King of Spaines miniſters, a parte of the ſaide Companie was put from the Towne of *Stade* in the yeare 1597. and were forced to retire out of the Empire, the Townes of the vnited Lowe Countreis, eleuen or twelue in number, of the beſt ſcituate, each ſtriving to be preferred, like ſo manie Riuales or Competitors, offered themſelues in moſt friendlie, and hartie ſorte, and invited

the saide Companie to reside with them vpon promises of such fauour, and Priviledge, as ought neuer to be forgotten: but hereof possibly enough: Let vs now looke into the Estate, Policie, and Gouvernement of the said Companie, wherby we shall plainlie see the causes and reasons of the loue, estimation, and credite which it hath purchased abroad, and so the sooner beleeue that, which hath aboue been sett downe, and affirmed.

Of the State and Gouuernement of the Companie of Merchantes Aduenturers, and of such benefites as grow to the Realme by the maintenance therof.

THE Companie of Merchants Adventurers consisteth of a great number of wealthie, and well experimented Merchantes, dwelling in diuerse great Cities, Maritime Townes, and other partes of the Realme, to witt, in *London*, *Yorke*, *Norwitche*, *Excester*, *Ipswitch*, *Newcastle*, *Hull*, *&c.* These men of olde time linked and bounde them selues togither in Companie, for the exercise of Merchandise, and sea-fare, trading in Clothe, Kersye, and all other, as well English as foreign Commodities vendible abroade, by the which they brought vnto the places, where they traded, much wealth, benefite, &

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commoditie, and for that cauſe haue obtayned manie verie excellent, & ſingular Priviledges, Rightes, Iuriſdictions, exemptions, & immunities, all which thoſe of the aforeſaid Fellowſhippe equallie emioye after a well ordered manner, and forme, and according to the ordinances, lawes, and cuſtomes denized, and agreed vpon by common conſente of all the Merchantes, free of the ſaid Fellowſhipp, dwelling in the aboue mentioned Townes, and places of the Lande: the partes, and places which they trade vnto, are the Townes, and Portes lyeing betweene the Riuers of *Somme* in *France*, and the *Scawe* in the *Germane* ſea: not into all at once, or at each mans pleaſure, but into one, or two Townes at the moſte within the aboueſaide boundes, whiche they commonly call the Mart Towne, or Townes: for that there onelie they ſtapled the commodities, whiche they brought out of Englande, and put the ſame to ſale, and bought ſuch foreigne Commodities, as the lande wanted, and were brought from farre by Merchants of diuerſe Nations, and Countreis flockinge thither, as to a faire, or markett to buye and ſell. And albeit through the troubles, and alteration of tymes, the M.M. Adventurers haue been forced to change and leaue their olde marte Townes, and ſeeke new, (as hath been partlie touched before) yet whereſoeuer they ſeated them ſelues, thither preſentlie repaired other Straungers, leauinge likewiſe the places whence the Engliſh Merchants were departed, and planting them ſelues where they reſided: ſo that as long

The companie of M. Adventurers is able to make & diuert a trade,

long as the Companie continued their Matt, or Staple in a place, so long grew, and prospered that place, but when they forsooke it, the welfare, and good estate thereof seemed withal to departe, and forsake it, as in olde time hath been seene in *Bridges*, and in our tyme in some others, and no marvaile: For diligent inquirie being made in the yere 1558. by the commandement of the Emperour *Charles* the fifth, what benefite, or commoditie came to his State of the low Countreis by the haunt, and Commerce of the English Merchantes, it was found, that in the Cittie of *Antwerp* alone, where the Cõpanie of M. M. Advẽturers was at that time residing, were at least twentie thousand persons fed & mainteyned for the most part by the trade of the M. M. Adventurers: besides thirtie thousand others in other places of the low Countries likewise maintayned and fed partlie by the said trade, partly by endraping of Clothe, & working in Wooll and other commodities brought out of England. In confirmation wherof, I haue heard auncient Merchants say, That at the time when the aboue said Companie was entierely resident at *Antwerp*, a little before the troubles which fell out in the yeres 63. & 64. there were fed, & mainteyned in the low Countreis sixtie thousande soules (and some haue saide a great manie more) by the English trade, and by the Wares bought in the low Countreis to be caried into England, which no doubt was the cause, that the Princes of the low Countreis haue been so favourable to the aboue saide Cõpanie, & so loath to forgoe

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or looſe them, as knowing that therewithall they ſhould looſe a verie faire flower of their garlande, yea a ſure roote, and foundation of their wealth. For on the one ſide, ſuch is the valew, profite, and goodnes of the Engliſh Commodities, that all Nations of theſe partes of Europe, and elſwhere, deſire them, and on the other ſide, the Engliſh Merchants buye vp, and carrie into Englande ſo great a quantitie of foreigne wares, that for the ſale thereof, all ſtraunge Merchauntes doe, and will repaire vnto them. Now what theſe Engliſhe commodities are, and how they be ſo profitable, may appeare by the particulars following:

The profites ariſinge by the M. M. Adventurers trade & reſidence beyonde the Seas.

Firſt, there is ſhipped out yearely by the abouеſaid Companie, at leaſt ſixtie thouſande white Clothes, beſides coloured Clothes of all ſortes, Kerſyes ſhort, and longe, Bayes, Cottons, Northern Doſens, & diuerſe other kindes of courſe Clothes: the iuſt valew of theſe ſixtie thouſande white Clothes can not well bee calculated, or ſett downe, but they are not leſſe woorth (in mine opinion) then ſixe hundred thouſande poundes ſterling, or Engliſh monie.

The coloured Clothes of all ſortes, Bayes, Kerſyes, Northern Doſens, and other courſe Clothes, I reckon to ariſe to the nũber of fortie thouſand Clothes, at leaſt, and they be woorth one with another foure hundred thouſand poundes ſterling, or Engliſh monie.

There goeth alſo out of England, beſides theſe Woollẽ Clothes, into the low Coũtries, Wool, Fel,

Lead, Tinne, Saffron, Conyſkins, Leather, Tallow, Alablaſtre ſtones, Corn, Beer, & diuers other things, amoũting vnto great ſummes of mony: By al which commodities, a number of labouring men are ſet on work, & gaign much monie, beſides that which the Merchaunt gaineth, which is no ſmall matter. Herevnto adde the monie which Shippers, and men that liue vpon the water, gett by fraight, and portage of the foreſaid Cõmodities from place, to place, which would amount to a great ſumme, if the particulars thereof were, or could be exactlie gathered: hereby in ſhort may be ſeene, howe great and profitable the Companie of M. M. Aduenturers trade hath been, and is in the places, where they hold their reſidence, beſides the profite raiſed vpõ the Chambers, Sellers, and Packhouſes, which they muſt haue for foure or fiue hundred Merchants, whereby Rentes are mainteyned and kept vp, and the great expenſes otherwiſe, which the ſaid Merchants are at for their diete, apparell, &c. to ſaye nothing of the Princes, or Generalities profit, and reuenues by their Tolles, Conuoyes, Impoſtes, Axcyſes, and other dewties, whereof there can be no certaine notice had, but to ſhewe the greatnes thereof, let this one ſigne ſo long agoe, ſerue for all, That *Philippe* the *Good*, Duke of *Burgundie*, and firſt founder of the order of the *Golden Fleeſe*, gaue the foreſaid Fleeſe for a liuerie, or badge of the ſaid Order, for that he had his chiefeſt Tolles, Renenues, and Incoms, by Wooll, and Woollen Cloth: Thus you haue ſeene what profit is raiſed by ſtraungers,

Carion. 5. Libro.

gers, vpon the Engliſh trade, it followeth to ſhewe, what the M. M. Adventurers buye for returne, of ſtraunge Nations,& people frequenting their Marte Townes,and bringing their Countrie commodities thether.

Of the Dutche, and Germane Marchantes, they buye Rheniſh Wine, Fuſtians, Copper, Steele, Hemp, Oinion-ſeed, Copper & Iron Wyre, Latten, Kettels, and Pannes, Linnen cloth, Harnas, Saltpeter, Gun-powder, all things made at *Norenbergh*, and in ſumme, there is no kinde of ware, that Germanie yeeldeth, but generallie the M. M Adventurers buye as much, or more thereof, then any other Nation. Germane wares.

Of the Italians, they buye all kinde of ſilke wares, Velvittes, wrought, and vnwrought, Taffitaes, Sattins, Damaskes, Sarſenettes, Milan fuſtians, Clothe of golde, and ſiluer, Grograines, Chamlettes, Satin, and ſowing ſilke, Organzine, Orſoy, and all other kinde of wares either made, or to be had in Italie. Italiane wares

Of the Eſterlinges they buye Flaxe, Hemp, Wax, Pitche, Tarre, Wainſcot, Deal-bordes, Oares, Corn, Furres, Cables, and Cable yearne, Tallow, Ropes, Maſtes for ſhippes, Sope-aſhes, Eſtrigd wooll, and almoſt what ſoeuer is made, or groweth in the Eaſt Countries. Eſterlinge wares.

Of the *Portingales*, they buye all kinde of Spyces, and Drugges: with the Spaniſh and Frenche, they had not much to doe, by reaſon that other Engliſhe Merchantes haue had a great trade into France and Spaine, and ſo ſerue England directlie from thence Portingale wares.

with the commodities of thoſe Countries.

Netherlandiſhe wares

Of the low Countrie Merchantes, or Netherlanders, they buye all kinde of manufacture, or handworke not made in Englande, Tapeſtrie, Buckrams, white threed, incle, Linnen clothe of all ſortes, Cambrickes, Lawnes, Mather, and an infinite number of other thinges, to longe to rehearſe in particular, but heereby I hope it ſufficientlie appeareth, that it is of an exceeding valew, which the M. M. Aduenturers buye, & carrie into England, in ſo much, that I haue heard it crediblie reported, that all the Commodities, that come out of all other Coũtreis, beſides Englande, were not wonte to ſett ſo manie people on woorke in the low Countreis, as the Commodities, which came out of England onely did, neither that anie other two of the greateſt Nations, that frequented the ſaid low Countreis for trade, did buye, or carie out ſo much goodes in valew, as the Merchantes Adventurers: The knowledge, and conſideration whereof hath made them thought woorthie to bee made of, cheriſhed, & deſired by Princes, States, and Common Wealthes, and it would not hurt the ſtate of the Empire a whytt, to holde friendſhippe, & entertayn ſo profitable a Companie, and Trade, as this, whereby great multitudes of their poore people, might be ſett on worke, and gett their liuing, and in proceſſe of tyme grow riche thereby, as the men of *Antwerpe*, and others of the lowe Countries haue done, which by the practiſes of the Pope, and King of Spaine, & the vnreaſonable dealing of the *Hanſes*,

is

is in a manner kept from them. The root, and ſpring of all this almoſt incredible Trade, and Trafficque hath had his increaſe, and proceeding from the politike Gouuernement, Lawes, and Orders deviſed, and obſerued of olde time in the ſaid Companie, as aforeſaide: eſpeciallie ſince the raigne of King *Henrie* the ſeuenth, by the ſpeciall order, cõmandement, and encouragement of the ſaide Noble Prince, one day ſtill being a Schoolemaiſter vnto the other, and men by experience, vſe, and knowledge of foreigne People, and their facions, orders, and kinde of dealing, growing dailie, and from time to time to an exacter courſe, and greater perfection of matters, and vnderſtanding of their own eſtate, and what is fitteſt for the vpholding, and maintenance thereof: Theſe ſaide ordinances conteine in them all kinde of good Diſcipline, Inſtruction, and rules to bring vp youth in, & to keepe them in order: ſo that the Marchants Adventurers dwelling in the aboue mentioned Cities, and Townes of the Realme of Englande, ſende their yong men, ſonnes, and ſervauntes, or Apprentices, who for the moſt parte are Gentlemens ſonnes, or mens children of good meanes or qualitie, to the Marte Townes, beyonde the Seas, there to learne good facions, and to gaigne experience, and knowledge in trade, and the manners of ſtraũge Nations, thereby the better to knowe the world betymes, and to be able, to goe through with the ſame, to the honor, and ſervice of their Prince, and Countrey, and their owne wel-fare, and advauncement in the com-

mon Wealth, whereof a verie great number haue ſhewed them ſelues, and at this daye manie are, verie notable, and beneficiall members: Beſides, the ſaid Companie hath a Gouvernour, or in his abſence, a Deputie, and foure and twentie Aſſiſtentes in the Marte Towne, who haue Iuriſdiction, and full Authoritie as well from her Maieſtie, as from the Princes, States, and Rulers of the low Countries, and beyond the ſeas, without Appelle, provocation, or declination, to ende and determine all Ciuile cauſes, queſtions, and controverſies ariſing betweene or amonge the Brethren, Members, and ſuppoſtes of the ſaide Companie, or betweene them and others, either Engliſhe, or Straungers, who either may or will prorogate the Iuriſdiction of the ſaide Companie, & their Court, or are ſubiect to the ſame by the Priviledges, and Charters therevnto graunted.

By the ſaide Gouvernour, and Aſſiſtentes are alſo appointed, and choſen a Deputie, and certaine diſcreete perſons, to be Aſſociates to the ſaide Deputie in all other places cõvenient, as well within, as without the Realme of Englande, who all holde Correſpondence with the Gouvernour of the Companie, and chiefe Court in the Mart Towne on the other ſide the Seas, and haue ſubalterne power to exerciſe Merchauntes lawe, to rule, and looke to the good ordering of the Brethren of the Companie euerie where, as farre as may bee, and their Charters will beare them out.

Further, the ſaide Companie entertaineth godlie and

and learned Preachers with liberall ſtipendes, and other benefites : Hath alſo Treaſurers, Secretaries, and other needefull Officers, the end of all which is: *The ſeemelie and orderlie Gouvernement and rule of all the members, partes, and Brethren of the ſaide Companie wherſoeuer in their Trade, and ſeat of Mercandiſe. Secondly, The Preſeruation of Amitie, and the Entercourſe betweene the Realme of Englaned and their Neighbours and Allies, and the Preventing of Innovations, griefs, wronges, and exactions contrarie to the ſame. Thirdlie, The great Vent, Advancement, and keeping in Eſtimation of Engliſh Commodities, and the bringing in of foreigne Commodities good cheape. Fourthlie, The Maintneance of the Navigation. Fifthlie, The Encreaſe of the Queenes Incomes, and Cuſtomes. Seaventhlie, and laſtlie, The Honor, and Service of the Prince, and of our State and Countrey, at home, and abroad.*

Benefites & Commodities ariſinge by the Cõpanie of Merchantes Adventurers.

Now that all theſe benefites, and commodities ariſe by the Companie of Merchantes Adventurers, I hope by, and by, plainlie to ſhew, and with all to proove, That by the ſaide Companie, all the aboue-written pointes are better performed, and brought to paſſe, then if all were ſett at libertie, as ſome haue deſired, & conſequentlie that without the ſaid Companie, few, or none of the foreſaid Benefites, or Cõmodities will bee ſo well raiſed or redounde to the State, and Common Wealth.

Of

Of Rule, and Gouvernement, the first point and Commoditie arising by the united Companie of Marchants Adventurers.

I Shall not neede to say much in commendation of good Gouvernement, & Policie, as having before touched the same in parte, and shewed howe needfull, & requisite it is also in matter of Commerce, Trade, and the feat of Merchandise. Now that the Companie of Merchantes Adventurers hath for this Point been auncientlie famous, and highlie praised, and esteemed of Straungers, as well, as of those of their owne Countrie, and so continueth to this day (although much disturbed, and disquieted by newe Tulles and Dimockes) I thinke no man doubteth: so that I take it as graunted, that the State, and Common Wealth heereby reapeth more profite, then if men were suffred to runne a loose, and irregulare course without order, commaund, or oversight of anie: whereby manie griefes, hurtes, dissentions, and inconveniences, besides no small dishonour to the Prince, and State would in shorte tyme arise, as heeretofore they haue done for want of sage, and discreete Gouvernment, of which Remedie seeing the foresaid Companie is sufficientlie provided, and that it hath been by the experience of so manie Ages, and the allowance

ance of eleuen Princes of the Realme approued, me thinkes, it were an offence, and wrong vnto the State offred to goe about to alter, or hinder the same: *atque ita Cornicum oculos configere.*

That the Amitie, and Entercourse betweene the Realme of Englande, and their Neighbours, and Allies, are cherished, and all Innovations, griefes, wronges, and exactions contrarie to the same, are prevented by the Maintenance of the Companie of Merchants Adventurers.

THERE hath been of olde tyme, very straight alliance and amitie between the Kinges of *Englande*, and the Princes of the low Countreis, especiallie since the gouuernement of the saide Countreis came to the handes of the Dukes of *Burgundie*, and among the saide Dukes, betweene King *Henrie* the fifth, and *Philippe*, surnamed the *Good*, Father to *Charles* surnamed the *Warriour*, which *Charles* was slaine before the Towne of *Nantes*: This Duke *Philippe* had almost from a childe been brought vp in the Court of Englande, so that betweene the saide King, and him, and their subiectes, was a verie firme league, friendshippe, & entercourse, the causes wherof, and of the former Amitie, and League betweene

the Kinges of England frō King *Edward* the third, & the ſaid Princes of the low Coūtreis, are reckoned to be three principallie. Firſt the aide of the ſaid Kings in the purſuite of their iuſt title to the Crowne of France. Secondlie, The ſaufer keeping of *Calice*, and the territorie thereabouts in the poſſeſſiō of the ſaid Kinges: And thidlie, The nearenes of *Flanders*, *Brabant*, *Holland* and *Sealand* vnto the Realme, and the commodious ſcituation thereof for the vent of Engliſh Commodities, in which Provinces the Engliſh Merchauntes were at that time ſettled. This neighbourlie league grounded vpon the aboue ſaide cauſes hath conſtantlie continued euer ſince, but more nearely was confirmed betweene King *Henrie* the fifth, & the abouesaid Duke of *Burgundie*, who liued in the yeare of our Lorde 1420. ſo that ſince that tyme it hath neuer been broken, but at the death, or chaunge of any Prince, on eache parte hath been renewed, confirmed, and ſometimes augmented, and namelie betweene King *Henrie* the ſeuenth, & King *Philippe*, ſonne to the Emperour *Maximiliane*, and Father to *Charles* the fifth Emperour, and for the maintenance, and cheriſhing of the ſaide league, and entercourſe, it is well knowen to thoſe which are conuerſant in Hiſtorie of things paſt, that ſince the winning of *Calice*, by King *Edward* the thirde, in the yere 1347. the Kinges of Englande haue with great Armies by lande, and Fleetes of ſhippes by ſea, invaded the Realme of France, in the quarrel and for the ayd of the houſe of *Burgundie*, as well as for their owne

parti-

particular claymes, and right, & especially King *Henrie* the fifth, as appeareth by diuers writers of those times, and since, but to lett passe so old matters, and only to rehearse somewhat of that, which hath been done in the memorie of men yet living, or not long before, I will in brief recount some speciall proofes of that aboue saide, giuing this note by the way, that as the Kings of Englande, and the Dukes of *Burgundie* were ioigned in league, and friendshippe, so were the Frenche, and Scottes, that when soeuer England had warre with France, Scotland had the like with England, so that the Kinges of England haue had alwayes double warres with the Frenche and Scottes togeather, and haue beene forced from time to time to keepe two Armies, sometimes three at once in the fielde.

Aydes giuē bythe Kings of England to the house of Burgūdie

In the yeare 1492. King *Henrie* the seuenth, in fauour and ayde of *Maximiliane*, Archduke of *Austrich*, & sonne to the Emperour *Frederick* the fourth, who had maried the Ladie *Marie*, daughter & sole heire to *Charles* the Warriour, slaine before *Nantz*, as aforesaide, and against whom almoste all the Townes in Flaunders rebelled, and tooke armes, and with the ayde of the Frenche, besieged the Towne of *Dixmuyde*, the saide King sent ouer the Lord *Dawbenye*, and the Lord *Morley*, with an armie vpon his owne charges into *Flanders*, who raised the foresaide siege, and slew eight thousand Frenche men, & Flemings in the place, taking all their prouision, & ordinance: and in the yeare following, when *Nieuporte*, a Town

lyeing vpon the Sea-coaſt of Flanders, was beſieged by Monſieur de *Cordes*, a Frenche man, with twentie thouſand Frenche and Fleminges, and that one of the principalleſt Towers or Bulwarkes of the ſaide Towne was entred, and helde by the enimie, yet by the valiant reſiſtence of ſuch Engliſh men, as were within it, and freſh ſupplie ſent by the foreſaid King, the foreſaid *Cordes* was forced to leaue the ſaid Town with ſhame, and loſſe of manie of his men, & much proviſion. In the ſame yeare alſo, the ſaide Kinge *Henrie* the ſeuenth ſent an armie by ſea vnder the cõduct of the Lord *Pominges*, to the ayde of the ſaide Archduke *Maximilian*, againſt the Lord of *Ravenſteyn*, Geneall of the Rebellious Fleminges, who had taken the Caſtell and Towne of *Sluſe* (the onelie Hauen and Porte to the ſeas of that olde and famous Towne of *Bridges*) but the Lord *Pominges* recouered the ſaid Caſtell by force, and deliuered it to *Albert* Duke of *Saxonie*, generall for the foreſaid Archduke: By the ſaving of which Caſtle, and the aboue ſaide towne of *Newporte*, the whole Earldome of Flanders was ſaued out of the handes of the Frenche Kinge, who otherwiſe, without the ayde of King *Henrie* of Englande, had ioyned the ſame to the Crowne of France. In the yeare following, the ſaide Kinge *Henrie*, in revenge of the great ſcorne and iniurie done to the aboueſaid Archduke by the Frẽch King, partly in returning home the Ladie *Margaret*, daughter to the ſaide Archduke, who was affianced, and after the maner of great Princes, by Deputies maryed

to

to the ſaid Frenche King, and partlie by getting in craftie ſorte the Ladie *Anne*, the onely heire of the Dutchie of *Britanie* from the ſaid Archduke, to whō ſhee was maried, entred France with a great Armie, where the ſaide Archduke promiſed to meete him with another armie on his parte, and although the ſaide promiſe was not kept, yet the ſaid King proceeded on his purpoſe, beſieged *Bullen*, and finally conſtrayned the French King to ſeeke peace of him, and to giue him a great ſumme of monie, with the which (and great ſpoile gott by his people) he returned into England, to his high honour, and praiſe, without once ſeeing or hauing anie helpe at all of the ſaide *Maximiliane*.

In the yere 1512. at which time the French King made warres with *Fernando* King of Spaine, and invaded his Countreis by lande, King *Henrie* the eight (of famous memorie) ſent an aide of tenne thouſand men by ſea into Spain, vnder the leading of the Noble Lord, the Lord *Thomas Grey*, Marquis *Dorſet*, at the requeſt of the aboue mentioned *Maximilian* then Emperour, whoſe only ſonne and heire *Philippe*, had maried *Ioan* the daughter, and heire of the aboue ſaid *Ferdinando*: Twoo yeares after this, the ſaide King *Henrie* in fauour and defence of the yonge Prince or Infante of Spaine, *Charles*, grandchilde to the aboue ſaide *Maximiliane*, and afterwardes Emperour himſelfe, went ouer in perſon with a mightie armie into France, and beſieged the ſtrong Towne of *Terwin*, which finallie was yeelded vnto him, maugre the

whole power of Fraunce, after he had discomfited, and ouerthrowen in battaile the French armie, slaying eight or tenne thousande in the place, and taking prisoners the Duke *de Longueville*, the Marquise *Retelois*, and besides 240. Lordes, Knightes, and Gentlemen of name and honour: In whiche battaile the aboue saide Emperour with at least fortie or fiftie of the Nobilitie of the lowe Countries, serued vnder the Kings Standerd, receyuing wages of him, and wearing the red Crosse, or Cognizance of England, after the rendring ouer of *Terwin*, the saide Kinge brought his armie before the Cittie of *Tonrnay*, or *Dornick*, at that time tearmed the Maiden Citie, (for that it neuer had been wonne by Prince) but Kinge *Henrie* gott it, and having taken order, for the sure keeping thereof, returned the way that he came, being a long marche of 63. miles with great glorie, and honour into Englande, and in the meane while the Duke of *Norfolke*, and his sonne the Earle of *Surrye*, had discomfited an armie of fiftie thousand Scottes, vnder the leading of their King *Iames* the fourth, who was slaine in the fielde with fourteene thousande of his people, whereof manie were of the Nobilitie, besides 12 Earles, 20 Lords, 40. or 50 Knightes, and manie Gentlemen, taken prisoners.

In the yeare 1414. the said King *Henrie* the eight did sende a bande of 1500. choise souldiours, vnder the leading of the Lord *Clinton*, vnto the ayde of the Ladie *Margarete*, Regent of the low Countries, against the Duke of Gelderlande.

In the

In the yeare 1530. a perpetuall peace was agreed vpon, and ſworne at *Pariſe* in France, betwixt the Emperour *Charles* the fifth, the King of England, & the French King, during their three lives: and which of the three ſhould firſt violate, or breake this peace, the other two were bound to ſett vpon him, as their open and ioint enemie: this peace was firſte broken on the French Kinges parte, by reaſon of a quārell betweene the Emperour, and the ſaide King, whereupon the King of England, for his oath and promiſe ſake, ſent ouer into France a great Armie, vnder the leading of the Duke of *Suffolke*, and prepared a great Fleet of ſhippes by ſea, to anoye the ſaide Countrie, and by this meanes drewe the Scottes againſt him: for the Duke of *Albanie* in ayd of the Frenche, entred England, and began to ſpoile the borders thereof, againſt whom the Earle of *Surrye* was ſent, who forced the Scottes to retyre, to their loſſe, and diſhonour, and entred Scotland at their heeles, burninge, and ſpoyling the Countrie afore him, and returning with great pray, and bootie.

In the yeare 1543. the ſaid King *Henrie* the eight, ſent ouer Syr *Iohn Wallop*, and other Gentlemē, with a band of ſix thouſand mē, to the ayd of the foreſaid Emperour *Charles*, when he went to *Landerſey*: and in the yeare 1545. the ſaide King in perſon with two Armies went ouer into Fraunce, in ayd of the ſaide Emperour *Charles*, at which tyme hee beſieged, and tooke *Bullen*: but how ill the ſaid Emperor kept promiſe with the ſaid King, and afterwards without his know-

knowledge, or privitie, made peace with the French King, I ſhall not neede to ſay much, as being partlie freſhe in mans memorie, and partlie commended to writing by ſuch, as liued in thoſe dayes.

Sleidanus libro ſexto.

In the yeare 1557. Queene *Marie* in favour of her huſband King *Philippe*, and by his procurement, and meanes, made warres vpon Fraunce, ſending ouer an armie by ſea, vnder the Lorde *Clintone*, highe Admirall of England, into *Britanie*, where they landed, ſpoiled, and burnt a great way into the Countrie, And another armie of tenne thouſand men by lande, vnder the Earles of *Penbrooke*, *Bedforde*, & *Rutland*, by whoſe helpe King *Philippe* gott the ſtronge Towne of *St Quintins*, and had his wil of the French King: but the Engliſh by theſe warres, and breaking peace with Fraunce for King *Philippes* ſake, loſt the Towne of *Calice*, which the predeceſſours of the ſaid Queene, had kept in ſpighte of all France 210. yeeres before that time: What other privie helpes Queene *Marie* gaue vnto her ſaide Huſband, few or none can tell, but it is tought, he had many an hundred thouſande poundes from her, that all the worlde knewe not of. Theſe warres haue the Kings of Englande taken in hande, and theſe aydes from tyme to tyme haue they giuen to the houſe of *Burgundie*, beſides great, and vnknowen ſummes of money lent, in ſo much, that in the opinion of men of knowledge, and experiẽce, it coſt the Realme of England three ſkore tymes an hundred thouſand poundes at leaſt, in the quarrel and defence of the Princes of the ſaid houſe,

within

within the compaſſe of 76. yeres after that *Maximiliane* maried with the Ladie *Marie*, daughter to *Charles* the *Warriour*, and heire to the ſaid houſe: to ſaye nothing of that which happened before, and nowe of late hath fallen out ſince the troubles in the low Countries, in all which the Kinges, and Queenes of England, haue ſhewed themſelues faithful, & friendlie Princes, and good Neighbours, and Allies to the the ſaide low Countries, and truelie & readilie haue holpen, & ſtood by the Princes thereof in their greateſt need, and extremitie: whereas we can not read, that thoſe of the houſe of *Burgũdie* euer made warres againſt Scotlande, or Fraunce in helpe of the Kinges of Englande directlie: neither were they, or anie of them euer required thervnto, but once, and that was in the dayes of King *Edward* the ſixt, being then but eight or nine yeres of age, and at ſuch time as he had both warre with Scotland, and Fraunce at once, and beſides was troubled with a great rebellió of his ſubiectes at home, for which cauſe a ſolempne Embaſſage was ſent to the Emperour *Charles* the fifth, who laid before the ſaide Emperour, the feeble eſtate of the ſaid King *Edwardes* infancie, and tender yeares, & the commotion of his ſubiectes, euen vpon the neck of the warres, and troubles with Fraunce, and Scotlande, putting the ſaide Emperour in minde of the great Armies, which at ſundrie tymes had been ſent out of England in ayd of his Father, and Graund-father, and alſo of the daungerous, and chargeable warres begunne, and taken in hande by King *Henrie*

Embaſſage to the Emperor Charles the fifth from King Edward the ſixth.

the eight, the ſaid Kinges Father, for the quarrell of the ſaid Emperour alone, as then but an Infant alſo, and vnder yeares: they did not lett further to tell him of the great paines, and travell taken by the ſaid King *Henrie*, with his friendes the Princes Electors, and others of Germanie, at the requeſt of the ſaide Emperour, to preferre him to the Imperiall Crown, and Dignitie, which he now poſſeſſed, and perhaps might elſe haue miſſed: Laſtlie, they prayed the ſaid Emperour, to remember the auncient, and faithfullie continued Amitie betweene the Emperour, and his Predeceſſours Dukes of Burgundie, and the Predeceſſours of the ſaide Kinge *Edwarde*, and that the warres, which he now had with Scotland, & France, was for none other cauſe mooved, then in maintenaunce of the ſaide Amitie, and in defence of the Quarrell of the houſe of *Burgundie*, and at the requeſt of the Princes thereof onelie: But, as the ſaid Emperour had dealt before with Duke *Frederick* of *Saxonie*, by whoſe meanes eſpeciallie he attayned to the Emperial Dignitie, ſo he did the like with King *Edward*, for clean forgetting all olde, and new friendſhippes, he gaue the Embaſſadours vncourteous woordes for the alteration of the Religion by their Kinge, and would doe nothing except the ſame were chaunged againe to the olde: Wherevpon they beſought the ſaid Emperour, that he would at leaſt be pleaſed, to take into his handes, and keeping the Towne of *Bullen*, not long before gott from Fraunce by King *Henrie* the eight, and that but for a tyme, till the ſaide

King

King *Edward* had quieted the troubles with his ſubiectes at home: but this he would not yeelde vnto neither, except the King would change his Religiō, which the King, and his Counſell (having the feare of God before their eyes) vtterlie refuſed, chooſing rather to looſe earthlie thinges, then heauenlie, and therefore ſeeing the Emperour would neither giue ayde him ſelfe, nor ſuffer anie munition, or ſouldiors to goe out of his land into England, no not ſo much as an armour (as I haue hearde) that one of the Embaſſadours had bought for him ſelfe at *Brueſſelles*, a peace in the yeare 1549. was concluded with France and Scotlande, with the reſtoring of *Bullen*, & vpon other conditions according to the tyme: this peace fell out but little to the profit of the Emperour, for in the yeare 1551. began the great warres betweene him, and *Henrie* the Frenche King, wherein the *Burgundians* fealt the want of their olde truſtie Friendes, and Allies the King of Englande, and his people. And vndoubtedlie, if the Kinges of Englande had not continuallie ayded, and aſſiſted the houſe of *Burgundie*, and the low Countreis, they had both been Frenche before this daye, or if the Frenche Kinge might haue been ſure of England, and without feare thereof bent his whole forces by ſea, and by lande againſt the Houſe of *Burgundie*, and *Spaine*, neither ſhould the Emperour haue gott ſo much advantage, as he did againſt the French King, neither haue been able to haue troubled Germanie, and the Germane Princes, nor other Princes, States, and Countreis, as

he did, neither ſhould he haue gotten ſo much poſ-
ſeſsion, and Dominion in *Italie*, and other places, as
hee gott, neither laſtlie ſhould his ſubiectes haue
obtained ſo great wealth, and ritches, nor ſo much
knowledge by lande, and by ſea, as they haue done.
For ſurelie, he, and his people may thanke the Kings
of Englande for all theſe thinges: for the ayde of the
ſaide Kinges, and the trafficque, and reſorte of the
Engliſhe Merchaunts haue been the principal cauſes
thereof, and therefore great reaſon had the Dukes of
Burgundie, to ſeeke the friendſhippe, and Amitie of
the Kinges of Englande, and to cheriſhe, & augment
the ſame by Treaties, and Entercourſe from tyme to
tyme, which are yet continued in force: and where-
of the foreſaide Companie of M. M. Adventurers
haue ſo good notice, recorde, & vnderſtanding, that
vpon anie occaſion whatſoeuer, they haue them rea-
die, thereby to defend the Right of the Realme, and
ſubiectes thereof, againſt ſuch as would either will-
fullie, or vnawares breake, & violate the ſame, which
ought to remaine as ſacred, and vntouched, for the
preſeruation of mutuall friendſhippe, and Amitie
betweene both Nations, which oftentimes for want
of dew care, and prouiſion on this behalfe in tyme,
might turne into open ennimitie, and alienation of
good will, not without daunger of warre in the end,
if ſome men might haue their willes: As in the yeare

Don Giral-
-do Deſpes.

1564. *Don Giraldo Deſpes* Embaſſadour for the King
of Spaine in England, at the inſtance of the Cardi-
nall *Granvelle*, dealt with a ſtraunger, yet liuinge in
England,

Englande,& wel knowen there, to drawe out a ſummarie of all the doleances of the low Country Merchantes, promiſing redreſſe therein, or to bringe the matter to an open warre, whiche whether the ſaide ſtraunger did,or not, I can not iuſtlie ſaye, but it is like enough his buſie head conſidered, and hee hath conceyued no ſmall diſcontentement of olde, that thinges goe not, as he would faigne haue them in Englande for his owne particular fancies ſake, and employment, without regardinge the alteration of tymes,or breach of Amitie,which might fall out betweene her Maieſtie, & the States of the vnited low Countries for that cauſe, ſo hee might come to his purpoſe: For immediatelie vpon this followed that violent proceeding of the Dutches of *Parmae*, in baniſhing of Engliſhe Clothe, and Commodities out of the low Countries,by meanes wherof, the Commerce,and Trade for a tyme ſurceaſed, not without perill of warre betweene the Princes, and their people. The Companie therefore of the M.M. Adventurers are a great obſtacle to the raiſing and bringing in of new, and vnwonted Tolles, Impoſtes, exactiions,and grievances, which otherwiſe the ſubiects of the Realme of Englande, their Shippes, and goods, would be charged with, and oppreſſed, contrarie to the treaties of Amitie, and Entercourſes, to the empoueriſhing of the ſaide ſubiectes, & the hinderance of the Navigation: whiche commeth to paſſe by meanes,and helpe of their common purſe,& by officers mainteyned to keepe regiſter of all things need-

full, and to defende theſe common cauſes from time to time, when anie Innovation, or ſtraunge exaction is brought in, tending to the hurt, and hinderance of the Merchantes, Mariners, & ſea-faring men, and conſequentlie to the dammage, and preiudice of the whole ſtate: and this a perticular man is not able to doe, for either his purſe, or meanes will not reach vnto it, or elſe being loath to ſpende his monie, and time, or to hinder his affaires, and trade hereaboutes, will rather yeeld vnto a wronge, whereby it cōmeth to paſſe by litle and litle, that the auncient rightes of the Realme, are either leſſened, or infringed, & that, which ought not to bee ſuffered, vnwonted tallages, taxes, and impoſitions, are leuyed vpon the ſubiect, to his great grievance, & empoueriſhing, and to the bringing of the Trade into ſtraungers handes onely: a thing of longe tyme practiſed, and laboured for by them, and chieflie prevented, and withſtoode by the Companie of M. M. Adventurers, which hath ſtirred vp the Eaſterlinges, and ſome Merchants of *Antwerpe*, of late dayes againſt them, the Eaſterlings continewe ſtill in their pride of heart, and indurate malice, the *Antwerpians*, and their new-borne Colledge (the troubles groweing vpon them) were forced to be quiet, though within theſe three yeares, their firſt and laſt (perhaps) Conſull, and Secretarie haue ſollicited the States Generall of the vnited Provinces with their Complaints, and accuſations, to embrace, and renew their olde quarrelles, and pretences, and to ſett vp on foote againe their decayed Conſulate,

in

in recompẽce of the good ſeruices heretofore done, (which I could wiſhe examined for that they vaunt them ſelues thereof) and for the great benefite, that may hereafter redounde, to the ſaide vnited landes, by the ſame, as they would haue the ſaid States beleeue. The true purpoſe, & drift whereof is nothing elſe (as I ſaide) but to eate the Adventurers out of their trade, as they of *Antwerpe* heeretofore did the Merchauntes of other Nations, *Portingalles*, *Italians*, *Dutches*, or *Germanes*, & others, whereby they greatlie enriched themſelues, their Prince, and Countrie, which finallie turned to the hurt, daunger, and diſquieting of all other Princes, and States, as hath appeared by the doeings, and practiſes of the late King *Philippe* of Spaine, and his Confederates: And to ſhewe that this which I haue ſaide, is true, I will by the way more perticularlie rippe vp this matter.

The Antwerpeners eate the Marchants of other Nations out of their trade.

Firſt for the *Portingall*, we knowe, that like a good ſimple mã, he ſailed euerie yeare full hungerlie (God wotte) about three partes of the Earth almoſte for ſpyces, and when he had brought them home, the great ryche purſes of the *Antwerpians*, ſubiectes of the King of Spaine, engroſſed them all into their owne handes, yea oftentimes gaue money for them before hande, making thereof a plain *Monopolie*: whereby they onely gaigned, and all other Nations loſt. For that the ſpyces, being in few mens handes, were ſold at ſuch rate, as they liſted, to their own private lucre, and gaign, and to the hurt, and damage of all others.

The *Italians*, Engliſhe, and Germane Merchantes, were

were wont to haue a verie profitable, and good trade into Italie with Kerſyes, and other Engliſhe, and foreign Commodities ſerving that Countrie, but a little before the troubles of the low Cuntries, the *Antwerpians* were growen into that trade, and were become the greateſt Dealers that way, and further, to *Alexandria*, *Cipres*, *Tripolie in Siria*, and other remote places, ſeruing the ſame more then anie other, with linen Cloth, Worſteds, Sayes, Tapeſtrie, and other Netherlandiſhe Wares, by meanes whereof the ſaid Italians, Engliſhe, & Germanes were forced to leaue that trade, or to doe verie litle.

The *Dutch*, or *Germane* Merchantes had the whole Trade in their owne handes, of all Commodities brought to *Antwerpe* from other places, that ſerued Germanie, buying vp all them ſelues, and caryeing them to the Townes, and Martes in their own Coūtrie: But in a few yeres the *Antwerpians* had alſo wholie gott that Trade, and the Germanes in a manner, did nothing, for the other in all Martes, and Faires in Dutchlande, bare the chiefeſt ſwindge, and ſerued the ſame with Commodities of all Landes, and of all ſortes, ſo that looke what the Germane vſed to gett, that they gott, eating as it were, the bread out of his mouth.

As for the *Eaſterlinges*, they had begunne a Staple of their commodities at *Antwerpe*, but in the opinion of wyſe-men, if it had longe continued, it would haue eaten out cleane, & conſumed their Merchants and Mariners from the ſeas, as they began not a little

to be

to be diminiſhed by thoſe of *Amſterdam*, and other, but new vpſtarr Townes in *Holland*, with their great number of Hulkes, & other ſhippes: of the Spaniſh trade, and Merchantes of Spaine, becauſe they were King *Philippes* ſubiectes, there is not much to be ſaid, but yet the *Antwerpians* had meanes, to gett a good fleeſe from them too: for the Merchauntes of *Antwerpe*, beeing of great wealth, were able to ſell theſe commodities, which beſt ſerued Spaine, and the *Indies*, at longe dayes of payement, & by meanes therof did ſett them at ſuch highe, and deare pryces, that when the dayes of payment came, and the Spaniard lacked his returnes, to keepe credite with, hee was forced to runne vpon the Exchaunge, or Intereſt, till his proviſion came in, by which time his gaynes was conſumed by vſurie, and many tymes ſome of the principall: beſides, they ſolde the Spaniarde their worſt wares, and caried the choyceſt them ſelues into Spaine, whether they traded more, thē al the Spaniardes in the lande did. For the trade of the Merchauntes of Fraunce: there hath been often warre betweene that Countrie, and the Dukes of *Burgundie*, as hath bin aboue partlie touched, by meanes whereof, there hath been much colouring of goodes betweene the one Princes people, and the other, and that ſo ordinarilie, and cunninglie, that the *Antwerpians* aboue all the Merchauntes beſides, were as privie, expert, and ſkilfull in all the Frenche trickes, and indirect trades and conveyances, as the Frenchmen them ſelues, by reaſon whereof, in tyme of peace, the

Frenche Merchauntes were much endamaged, and hindred: for the *Antwerpians* ſerued *Germanie, Spaine, Portingall, Eaſtlande*, and their neighbours of the low Coũtries, with ſuch things, as the French men themſelues vſed to ſell, and vent in thoſe places: now lett vs looke a while into England, and take a view, what the *Antwerpians*, and other Netherlanders, principallie thoſe of *Antwerpe*, haue done there, and you ſhall finde that not paſt 80. yeares agoe, there were not in all *London* about twelue, or ſixteene lowe Countrie Merchantes, and amongſt them, not paſt fower of anie credite, or eſtimation. For the Merchaundiſe which they then brought into Englande moſt, were ſtone pottes, bruſhes, puppettes, and toyes for children, briſtles for ſhoemakers, and ſuch other pedlery ware of ſmall valew, and ſometimes a litle fiſhe, and three or foure pieces of linen Cloth, but in leſſe then the compaſſe of fortie yeares following, there were in *London*, at leaſt one hundred Netherlandiſh Merchantes, the moſt parte whereof were of *Antwerp*, and thether they brought all kinde of wares, whiche the Merchauntes of *Italie, Germanie, Spaine, Fraunce*, and *Eaſtlande* (of all whiche Nations there were before that tyme diuerſe famous, and notable riche Merchants and Companies) vſed to bring into England out of their owne Countries directlie, to the great damage of the ſaide ſtraungers, and of the Naturall borne Engliſh Merchauntes, whiche Engliſhe Merchantes and their trade alſo the ſaide Netherlanders (but eſpecially thoſe of *Antwerpe*) as much as in them laye,

laye, euen then ſought, and practiſed ro deſtroy, and ouerthrow, and ſince haue been manie yeares about it, which in good time was diſcouered, and by the diligence, and trauaile of the Merchantes Aduenturers principallie, not without their great coſt, and charge hath been hetherto withſtood, and prevented, & ſo will be ſtill ſo long, as that Companie continueth on foot, let the other repine, and mutter at it, as much as they liſt, and ſeeke to croſſe, and hinder the Adventurers, whereſoeuer they can procure audience with their vnſeaſonable Remonſtrances, ſpitefull Declarations, and harſhe Complaintes, to the raiſing vp, as much as in them lyeth, of the like ſtirre, and diſagreement betweene her Maieſtie, and the States of the vnited Netherlandes at this time, as happened in the yeare 1563. vnder the gouuernement of the Dutcheſſe of *Parma*, Regent for the late King *Philippe* of Spaine, at that time in the low Countries: when as through the complaint of the Merchantes of *Antwerpe* principallie, and of others of the ſaid low Coũtries, againſt the raiſing of the Cuſtome of Clothe, & of foreign Wares brought into England, and ſpecialie againſt an Act of Parleament made for the ſetting of her Maieſties people on worke, by vertue whereof foreign wares, as Pinnes, Kniues, Hattes, Girdles, Ribbin, and ſuch like, were forbidden to be brought in readie wrought, to th'intent, that her Highnes ſubiectes might be employed in making thereof, the ſaide Dutcheſſe of *Parma* by proclamation forbadd the carying into England of anie kinde of matter, or

thing, wherewith the ſaid wares might be made, and baniſhed out of the low Countries all *Manufacture*, or handie-worke, as Bayes, &c. made in Englande, Clothe, and Kerſye onely excepted, which alſo ſhee afterwardes forbad to be brought in vpon payne of confiſcation, vnder ſhew, or pretence of infection, (for that the plague had raigned verie ſore in *London* and other places of the Realme that ſommer) but in verie trueth the right cauſe was, for that ſhee could not haue her will in the aboue-mentioned pointes, and tooke that time of mortalitie, and wante of trade in Englande, to be the readieſt, and fitteſt opportunitie to attayne therevnto. So that finallie the M. M. Adventurers, after they had kept their Clothes, and other goods aboorde their ſhippes in the Riuer of *Thames*, and *Scheld* fiue monethes together, & might not be permitted to lande them at *Antwerpe*, were at length forced to departe with the ſame vnto the Town of *Embden* in Eaſtfriſeland, where they obtayned Priviledges, & Contracted for a free Commerce with the two yonge Earles *Eggard* and *Iohn*, and the Ladie *Anne* Counteſſe of *Oldenburghe* their Mother, Anno 1564. who neither feared, nor founde anie contagion in the Engliſhe, and their Commodities, and by this meanes brake the violence of the foreſaid Dutcheſſes intention, erecting their trade in the aboueſaid Towne, and leauing *Antwerpe*, and the low Countries, wherevpon King *Philippe*, and his Miniſters grieving ſore, that they could not haue their will of her Maieſtie, and her Highnes ſubiectes, and

that

that they muſt forgoe ſo profitable a Milche-cowe, as the Engliſh trade was vnto the low Countries, an Edict or Proclamation was ſett forth in the Moneth of Maye of the aboue-ſaide yeare, That no perſon in the ſaide low Cuntries, ſhould haue, or vſe any trade with the Engliſhe at *Embden*, buy anie Cloth, or Engliſhe Woollen commoditie of them, or carie them anie wares vpon paine of confiſcation of the ſame: then the which dealing what could be more iniurious, or enemy-like in time of opē warres? But herein the ſaide King not onely ſhott at the ſtate of England, but withall he endammaged other Nations, and particularlie thoſe of the Empire, as though no Countrie-Merchants ought to trade any where, but in his Countries, and when, and where, and with whom it pleaſed him, thereby to holde all the whole trade of Merchandiſe in his Netherlandes alone, forbidding vpon paine of loſſe of goodes the Imperiall Merchantes, as well as others, from occupying, buying, or ſelling within the limites of the Empire, as though he had been Emperour him ſelfe, and more then Emperour: In which point hee touched verie neare the toppe & heigth of the Emperiall Crowne, and Dignitie, in that being but Duke of *Burgundie*, and in that reſpect but a ſubiect of the Empire, hee tooke vpon him peremptorilie, to commaunde, reſtrayne, forbidde, and iniuriouſlie to breake the old, and auncient freedomes, and liberties of the Empire freelie yeelded, and ſo longe Religiouſlie mainteyned, and kept as well towardes all the ſubiectes, as towardes

prohibition of al Trade with the Engliſhe by K. Philippe.

wardes all the friendes, & Allies of the ſame, amongſt which Friendes the Engliſhe haue been continually not the leaſt, or laſt, as fetching their originall out of the ſaide holy Empire: At length when the King of Spaine, for all the inſtigation of his Netherlanders, and popiſh Miniſters, ſawe, that hee could not prevaile, and were at a ſtand, he and they were glad, and fayne to come to a proviſionall agreement, and to accept of ſuch Priviledges, and liberties, as the ſaide Netherlanders enioyed in England in the laſt yeare of Queene *Maries* raigne: whiche was the yeare of our Lord 1558. and to call in all thoſe foreſaid Placcates, Edictes, and Prohibitions made againſt the Engliſhe, and bringing in of Engliſhe wares.

And although in the yeare following, and the yere 1566. a diete was helde at *Bridges*, for the taking vp, and compounding of all variances, difficulties, grievances by certaine Embaſſadoures ſent from both Princes, yet nothing was concluded, the Cuſtomes about the which the firſt, and moſte queſtion grew, were for all the Netherlandiſhe Merchantes wrangling, and importunitie continued, as hauing been erected in Queene *Maries* dayes (King *Philippe* their naturall Prince being maried to her) and the former agreement made in the yeare 1564. betweene the Queenes Counſell, and Don *Gaſman de Silva*, Embaſſadour for the abouesaid King, ſtoode, and ſo remayned in force till the yeare 1568. when as the Duke of *Alua* in the low Countries, and Kinge Philippe throughout Spain cauſed the perſons, & goods

of

of the Engliſh Merchantes, to be arreſted, and ſtayed, vpon this occaſion; it happened in the aboue-ſaide yeare 1568. that a great ſhippe of *Biſcaie*, and foure Pinaſſes which the Spaniards call *Aſſabres*, were chaſed by certaine men of warre beloging to the Prince of *Condé* into the haue of *Plimmouth*: in which great ſhippe were the valew of two hundred thouſand piſtolettes, which monie the Spaniſhe Embaſſadour at that time in England, *Don Giraldo Deſpes*, required to haue deliuered vnto him, as belonging to the Kinge his Maiſter, with conſent to conveigh the ſame to *Antwerpe* vnto the Duke of *Alua*, which was graunted him, but while he attended order from the ſaide Duke, about the ſaufe ſending of the ſaid monie, her Maieſtie came to the knowledge, that it did not belonge to the King of Spaine, but vnto certaine Merchauntes of *Genua*, & that the Duke of *Alua*, needing monie, meant to ſeaze vpon the ſame, and turne it to the Kinges vſe. Which the owners fearinge, choſe rather, that it ſhould remain in the Queenes handes: wherevpon her Maieſtie cauſed all the monie to bee landed, ſaying that ſhee would borow it of the Italians, with their good will, and liking, and ſo preſerue it from the Frenche, who threatened to fetche it by force out of the Hauen, where it laye. The Duke as ſoone as he had knowledge heereof, ſuddenlie commaunded all the Merchauntes Adventurers to be arreſted at *Antwerpe*, and cauſed them to be kept ſafe in the Engliſhe houſe, with a companie of Dutch ſouldiers: he commaunded alſo the ſhippes and goodes of

The Duke of Alba arreſteth the perſons and goodes of the Engliſh in Antwerp & elſewhere in the low Countreis.

of all the Englishe Merchantes, as well at *Antwerpe*, a elsewhere, to be attached, and inventarised, which h afterwardes solde to *Fernando Frias*, a Spaniard, an others, to the vse of the King of Spaine. When he Maiestie vnderstood of this hastie, & vnadvised dea ling of the Duke of *Alua*, shee gaue leaue vnto he subiects for their Indempnitie, to arrest the Nether landers, and their goodes in Englande: By meane of these generall arrestes on both sides, the trade o the M.M. Adventurers ceased at *Antwerpe*, but for the sale of the Commoditie of the lande, they presentlie contracted with the Town of *Hamborough*, and there helde their Martes onely for a time: The Duke of *Alua* on the other side, to hinder the Trade, and consequentlie to hurt the state of Englande, the last daye of Marche 1569. by straight proclamation forbad all dealing with the Englishe, either in carying them any wares, or buying of them Englishe Commoditie to bee brought into the lowe Countreis, appointing for the more seuere execution heereof certaine spyes, or promoters, among the which, as principall, was Doctour *Storie*, of whose shamefull, and well deserued punishement, and end, there is yet freshe memorie: but these differences, and troubles were afterwardes in the yeare 1574. at a Diete helde at *Bristowe* taken vp, and agreed, and the Entercourse was renewed, and confirmed in such maner, as was concluded at *Bridges* in the yeare 66. to the high honour and commendatiō of her Maiestie, who medled not with one penie of the arrestes goodes, but gaue the same

the ſame wholy ouer vnto her ſubiectes, in recompence of their loſſes in the lowe Countries, and honorablie contented the owners of the monie (about the which the Queſtion and trouble firſt roſe) for the ſame: whereas to the contrarie the King of Spaine neuer recompenced his ſubiectes for their damages, but as is ſaide, converted all the Engliſh Merchantes goodes which he found in the low Countries, or in Spaine, to his owne vſe, without hauing the leaſt cõſideration of the loſſe of anie man. By the aboue-written diſcourſe we may perceiue the ſleightes, practiſes, and induſtrie of the *Antwerpians*, and Netherlanders, to drawe the trade of all Nations into their owne handes, the proud, vnneighbourlie, yea ennimilike Edictes, & Proſcriptions of the Dutcheſſe of *Parma*, vpon the vnreaſonable complaintes, and demaundes of her Merchantes, no doubt egged on by the Cardinall *Granvelle* in hatred of the Religiõ profeſſed in England: the raſhe and vnadviſed arreſtes, and detayning of the perſons, and goodes of the M. M. Adventurers, and others in the lowe Countries, and Spaine by the King, and the Duke of *Alua*: the *Heroicall* courage, wiſedome, and equitie of our gracious Queene in defence, and reliefe of her ſubiectes wronged, and ſpoiled in barbarous ſorte, contrarie to reaſon, and againſt the Entercours, and Treaties ſworne, and eſtabliſhed betweene both the Nations, and the Princes thereof: And laſtlie, the great care, and travaile of the M.M. Aduenturers in middeſt of all theſe troubles, & their exceeding great loſſes, and

hinderances to seeke, and procure a place, Firste at *Embden*, then at *Hamborough*, for vent of the Commoditie of the Realm, and maintenance of the trade, whereby so manie liue, the ouerthrowe, and destruction whereof, hath been the principall marke, and purpose of all the aboue-mentioned Complaintes, Edictes, Proscriptions, and Arrestes, and is nowe at this day of all the violent machinations, & workings of the King of Spaine, and his Ministers, and fauourers, (to which partie the *Hanses* adioigne them selues with might and mayn) thinking thereby, to stirre vp some notable commotion, trouble, ot disorder in the State of Englande, and so the sooner to bring to passe their longe purposed bloodie, and treacherous practises against the precious life of her Maiestie, (whom the Lorde longe preserue amongest vs) and against the true Religion, and Church of Christ planted in her Highnes Dominions, and in steede thereof to sett straungers ouer vs, and to reestablishe Poperie, and so lastlie, bringe the whole Englishe people, and subiectes of her Maiestie, into miserable slauerie of bodie, and Conscience, vnder an vngodlie and superstitious Nation, from the whiche the Almightie God in mercie keepe vs, and our posteritie, that wee may see peace in our dayes, and that there may be rest in the Church vnto the end of the worlde: But to returne to my purpose.

That

That the better and greater vent and advancement of Englisſh Commodities, and the bringing in of foreigne Wares (good cheape) is procured by the Companie of Merchants Adventurers.

THE next benefite which ariſeth to the Prince, and State by the maintenance of the Companie of M. M. Adventurers is, The better and greater vent, and advauncement of Engliſhe Commodities, and the bringing in good cheape of foreigne Wares. Which to be ſo, not onely that which hath paſſed heeretofore, but alſo freſhe experience hath ſufficientlie manifeſted: for firſt it is plaine, as hath been aboue touched, that in tymes longe paſte, and euen of late yeares, the M M. Adventurers did ſettle them ſelues in ſome one Towne of the low Countries, and there ſtapling the Woollen Clothe, Kerſyes, and other the commodities of the Realm of England, in good and merchantlike order, and vnder good & prudent Gouuernement, did atende the Merchantes ſtraungers, whiche ſhould repaire vnto the ſaide Towne, (commonlie tearmed the Mart Towne) to buye the ſaide Clothes, Kerſyes, &c. or to ſell, or barter vnto the Merchaunt Aduenturer ſuch foreigne commo-

dities, as were moſt fitt, and neceſſarie for the Realm of Englande, by meanes whereof great numbers of Merchauntes of *Eaſtlande*, *Germanie*, *Italie*, and almoſt out of all the Townes, and Provinces of the lowe Countries reſorted to the Mart Town: and there in moſte ample, friendlie, and Merchantlike maner did trafficque, and deale with the ſaide M. M. Aduenturers, whereby the Engliſh Commodities were kept, and holden in ſingulare credite, and eſtimation, and all kinde of foreign wares were returned, & brought in at reaſonable, and low prices, not oncly to the good of the common Wealth of Englande in generall, and the benefite of the M. M. Adventurers in particular, but alſo to the great ſatisfaction, contentment, and good liking of all the aboue-ſaide foreign States, and people, in ſo much, that ſome great perſonages, drawen with the verie reporte of the ſeemlie dealing, cariage, and orders of the Companie of M. M. Aduenturers, haue repaired to the Marte Town, to beholde, and ſee the ſame.

This courſe deriued from common reaſon, and approoued by *Experience*, (the ſureſt Doctor in the ſchoole of Mans life) manie yeares togeather hathe been obſerued, & continued in the abouesaid Companie, as a principall point, and one of the mayne poſtes, and pillers of the ſame: For firſt, it cannot be denied, that to advaunce anie thing, and to make it of price, and eſtimation, is to bring it in requeſt: ſecondlie, to bring it in requeſt, is to drawe a concours & multitude to deſire it: and laſtlie, the beſt meanes,

to

to drawe a Concours and multitude, is to appointe a certen place, whether men may commodiously resorte, where also if they may finde, not onely that whiche they desire, and haue neede of, but withall may vent that, which their Countrie bringeth forth, and hath plentie of, it is a double cause, and allurement to invite them to such concourse, and flocking together. From this reason is the order, and institution of the Marte-Towne so longe, and so seriouslie practised, and maintayned by the M. M. Aduenturers, which to be soundlie, & well grounded, I think no man will gain-saye, next late experience, as well at home, as abroade, hath taught vs, that when another course was liked of by some, and that diuerse of the Companie had disbanded them selues, and held not the forefaid commendable, and Merchauntlike course, but erected vnto them selues a private, irregulare, and straglinge trade, the commoditie of the Realme lay vnvented, or grew to bee embased, and solde at lower prices, then before: for when as about fourteene yeares past, in the 29th yeare of her Maiesties Raigne, the Wooll-growers, Clothiers, Weavers, and others liuing vpon Cloth-making, wanting their accustomed commoditie, gaines, and woorke, made a grievous complaint thereof, it was thought to be the onelie expedient to remedie this sore, to giue libertie to all her Highnes Subiects, and others, to buye, and transporte Clothe accordinge to the limitation of the lawes, any graũtes, or Priviledges by her Maiesties prerogatiue heeretofore to the M. M.

Complaint of the wool growers & Clothiers for want of Trade.

Aduenturers graunted notwithſtandinge: yet wee ſawe, that the maladie was neuer a whitt the better, but rather grew worſe, and worſe, in ſomuch that the poore people in *Wiltſhiere*, and *Glocesterſhiere*, livinge wholy vpon Clothe making, in great numbers were readie to growe into a mutinie for this cauſe, to the ſingulare reioycing of the enemies of her Maieſtie, and in particulare of the *Hanſes*, who deſire nothing more, then the ouerthrowe of the M.M. Aduenturers, and their Trade: thereby finallie intendinge to diſturbe the peace of the whole Realme. At length when all men expected nothing elſe, but an aboliſhment, and diſſolving of the abouesaid Companie, as the ſole, and onely cauſe of all this griefe, the ſetting vp of the Steelyarde againe, and the equalling of all the ſubiectes, and others in the Realme, in tranſporting, and carying out of Clothe. None of all theſe thinges fell out, but to the contrarie, thoſe of the ſaid Companie were ſent for, and after they had been heard, and had made knowen the true cauſe of the abouesaid ſoare in deed, they were willed to proceed in their Trade, with promiſe of aſſiſtence, and countenaunce from my Lordes, and others of the Counſeill, which aſſuredlie their Honors would not haue donne, if that they had ſeene, that the late innovation, or libertie had brought foorth, or was likelie to bring foorth the promiſed effect, or that without the ſaide Companie of M. M. Adventurers ſo great a quantitie of the Woollen cõmodities of the Realm, could be vented, as in former tymes, when the ſaide

M.M.

M.M. Adventurers were mainteyned, and backed in their full Priviledges and Rightes.

THe Marchantes Adventurers were at this time encombred with no ſmall difficulties: for that neither of their Mart-Townes (*Embden* & *Middelborough*) were verie ſaufe, or fitt for the vtteraunce of their Commodities, neither knew they, where to finde a place cõvenient for that purpoſe: for at *Middelborough*, partlie through the continuall loanes of great ſummes of monie, vpon the necke one of another required at their handes, without warrant or authoritie from her Maieſtie, and partlie thorough the feare of daũger they were put in by the Earle of *Leiceſter*, then Gouvernour of the vnited Provinces, the Trade was in a manner wholy damped, and diuerſe of the principalleſt of the Companie in that place, almoſt in flying manner, with-drew them ſelues, and their goodes into Holland: At *Embden* on the other ſide, thinges were in no verie good tearmes, by reaſon of the Duke of *Parmaes* prevaylinge in the Provinces next adioyning, and that the States ſent their men of warre into the Riuer of *Embs*, whereby the trade by lande grew exceeding perillous, and by water troubleſome and chargeable: ſome alſo to mend the matter, ſticked not to put into mens mindes a ſuſpicion of the Count *Egdard* of *Eaſtfriſelande*, as a ſecrete Pentioner, and fauourer of the King of Spain; and ſure it is, that his chiefe Officer *Ocko Freez*, then Droſſart of *Embden*, ſhewed him ſelf by many ſignes

and

& actions, very much enclined to the Spaniſh parte: The *Hanſes* alſo in the yeare 1582. at an Aſſemblie of the Empire at *Ausburghe*, by fauour, and aſſiſtence of the Spaniſh miniſters, and of the Princes, and Prelates of the Romiſh Religion (the moſt part wherof were at the devotion of the houſe of *Auſtritche*) had vpon their complaintes, and iniurious informations obtained a Decree, for th'expelling of the Trade, and reſidence of the M. M. Adventurers out of the Empire, and otherwiſe by new occaſions of loſſes, ſuſtained at ſea by Engliſh men of warre (though nothing were done to them contrarie to the law of Nations) were ſore incenſed, not onely againſt the ſaid M.M. Adventurers, but alſo againſt the whole Engliſh name, ſo that there was little or no hope, or likelyhoode to finde anie friendſhippe, or good entertaynement at their handes.

Cominiſsioners ſent to treate with the Hamburgers of new Priuileges.

The Companie all theſe difficulties notwithſtanding, taking new courage, and moued in dewtie towardes her Maieſtie, and their Natiue Countrie, In the yeare 1587. ſent their Commiſſioners Syr *Richard Saltonſtall*, Knight, at that tyme their Gouvernour, & Doctor *Giles Fletcher*, a Ciuilian vnto *Hamborough* with foure ſhippes loaden with Cloth, to trie the mindes of that people, and whether they could procure a reſidence in that Towne againe (whether they were invited by letters of the 19. of Auguſt, 1586. from the Senate,) The *Hamburgers* notwithſtanding their ſaide letters, by the inſtigation of the Duke of *Parma*, who at this time was wholy intentiue

tiue in a manner to the matters of England, and had inckling of a commotion doubted among the commons there, for want of worke (the appeasing or encrease whereof much depended vpon the M.M. Adventurers Trade, and therefore sought by all meanes to disturbe it) held them selues very nyce, and coye, and hauing daily in their Counseill Doctor *Wesendorp* of *Groeninghe*, sent thether by *Verdugo*, Gouuernour of *Westfriselande* for the Kinge of Spaine, delayed, and dallied with the foresaid Commissioners, so that after much labour spent, nothing in the ende was concluded: for the *Hamburgers* beeing certified by the abouesaid Doctor *Wesendorp*, of the great preparation in hande, and the invasion intended by the King of Spaine against Englande, of the happie successe whereof, he promised and presumed much, and of the which the *Hamborghers* (it should seeme) conceiued no smal hope, vpon euery dayes newes either confirmed, or recalled that, which before hand with much a doe, had been passed, and agreed vppon betweene them, and the M.M. Aduēturers Commissioners, excusing this their light dealing sometime by the vnwillingenes of their Commons, (whose consentes as they saide they could not obteyne) otherwhiles by want of authoritie frō the rest of the *Hanses*, without whose privitie and liking they might not conclude any such thing, and yet they had written the contrarie in the abouesaid letter: in these words, *Neque tamen ad has nostras privatas Cōsultationes reliquarum Civitatum Confœderatarum consensum requirendum*

arbitramur: So that in fine the Commissioners being wearied with these delayes, and finding that at *Stade*, a Towne not farre distant from *Hambourgh*, the trade might be well seated, thether they repaired, and procured a Residence, and Priviledges there in the moneth of Semtember 1587. This Towne of *Stade* is an auncient free towne of the Empire, in the territorie of the Archbishoppe of *Breme*, who as Protector of the Towne, hath a Tolle there, but no other commaund. It is scituate from the riuer of *Elb* about two English miles, out of the which is a Creek called the *Swinge*, which ebbeth and floweth vp to the Towne, and is able to carie a shippe of four skore or an hundred tonnes, and maketh a saufe, and quiet harbour for shipps in all weathers: The Town standeth vpon the maine land of *Germanie*, on the hether side of the Elb, a dayes iourney from *Bremen*, three dayes iournie from *Embden*, as manie from *Cassell* in *Hessen-land*, two dayes iournie from *Lunenburgh*, and from *Hambourgh* six houres: verie neare, and convenient for *Westfalia*, *Freeslande*, and the partes thereabouts: in the winter season, and alwayes farre better, & commodiouser then *Hamborough*, for transportinge, and sending of goodes to and fro the abouesaid townes, and partes of Dutcheland. In this Towne therefore lying so commodious, and fitt for trade, though old and vnfrequented, the Companie at their own great costes, and charges, by their abouesaide Commissioners, obtayned Priviledges with the allowance, and good lyking of the Archbishoppe, and Chapter of *Breme*:

Scituation of the Town of Stade.

Priuiledges obtayned at Stade.

Breme: and there they found great, and quicke vtte-raunce of their Commodities at good rates, and pri-ces, Marchauntes reſorting thether from all partes, for in the whole Towne of *Stade* was not one Mer-chaunt before the Companies of M. M. Adventurers cõming thether, but they liued generallie all the in-habitantes thereof vpon tillage, feedinge of cattell, ſwine, and other huſbandrie, the Towne alſo with the houſes and buildinges thereof, was almoſt vtter-lie decayed, and growen ruinous, but in the tenne yeares that the Cõpanie reſided in that Town, there was a ſtraunge alterarion, ſo that it grew in deede to be another Towne in regard of that it was before, & as the eſtate of *Stade* mended daily, ſo the Trade en-creaſed, till the publication of the Emperours *Man-date* in the yeare 1597. the ende of which *Mandate*, a blind man may ſee to be none other, then through the ſides of the M. M. Adventurers to hurt, & wound the State of England, that is by the ſubuerſiõ of that Companie, to ſtoppe the vent of Engliſh Clothe, by the which ſo manie thouſandes are fedd, and ſuſtai-ned in the lande, and muſt want, if the Trade faile, to repoſſeſſe the *Hanſes* with their olde antiquated, and obſolete Priviledges no way ſufferable by the Prince or State, and to gratifie the Capitall Enemies of this Realme: And therefore I could wiſhe all the well-willers, and louers of the common wealth, and ſtate of Englande, and all the good ſubiectes of her Maieſtie, that through Envie, or miſconceipt, they ſeeke not, or procure the decay, or hinderance of the

aboue saide Companie, least vnawares they ioyne handes with the common Enemie, who seeketh not onelie the subuersion of the saide Companie, but also of this whole Realme, from the which the Lorde in mercie preserue vs.

By that which hath been aboue sett downe, I doubt not, but it alreadie in parte appeareth, how true it is by late experience at home, that the Commoditie of the Realme can neither so wel, nor in so great quantitie be vented by anie other course, as by mainteyning the M.M. Aduenturers in their Trade, and Priuiledges: for further proofe whereof, and that foreigne wares are by this meanes brought into the lande at the more reasonable rates, let vs see what hath happened abroad, and consider the particulare doeinges of some Fellowes, and brethren of the said Companie.

Norebergh Traders, & traders out of the Mart Townes.

In the yeare 1584. and a few yeares before, some of the Companie had found out, and vsed a trade to the Towne of *Norenberghe*, and other partes of Germanie, contrarie to the old good orders of the Companie, especiallie that, whiche forbiddeth trade out of the Marte Townes, ordayned for the keeping in credite, and better vent of English Commoditie, and bringing in of foreign Wares good cheape, & at reasonable prices: So that where the trade was before tymes in the Mart Townes betweene Englishe, and foreigne Merchauntes, it was now growen (especiallie in the Towne of *Embden*) to bee betweene Englishe,

gliſh, and Engliſh Merchantes: Thoſe whiche vſed this Trade, to excuſe their doeinges alleadged, that they did tranſporte, & carrie from the Mart Townes as great a quantitie of Clothes, Kerſyes, and other woollen commodities, and at as good prices, as the Merchaunt ſtraunger did, or would doe, and that they brought to the Mart Townes, as much foreign Ware, and that as good, and as good cheape, as the ſtraunger Merchauntes could doe, and therefore, if the M.M. Adventurers were not of an envious diſpoſition, they could bee content, that their owne Countriemen, and brethren, ſhould rather gaigne, then Straungers. Heerevnto it was aunſwered: That although all this were true, and graunted, (as it was not, for that much might be excepted there-againſt) yet all men of ſound reaſon, & vnderſtanding, might eaſilie ſee, and perceiue, that a Commoditie ſought for at the Mart Townes, is more eſteemed by the ſeeker thereof there, then if it were brought home, and offred to him to ſell at his owne doores, and the Merchauntes proverbe is (*That there is twentie in the hundred difference betweene, will you buye? and you ſell?*). And therefore, admitt that theſe Traders to *Norenberghe*, did tranſporte from the Marte Townes, as manie Clothes, Kerſyes, &c. as the ſtraunge Merchantes did, or would doe, yet could not the ſaide Clothes, Kerſyes, &c. beare ſuch price, and eſtimation in *Norenbergh*, and other partes of Germanie, being there offered to ſell by Engliſhe, as they would doe, if they were to bee ſolde by ſtraungers, or the

Naturalls of the place, for the aboue written reaſon: the like might bee ſaid, and vnderſtoode of foreigne Wares, that the ſame would bee bought, as good cheape at the leaſt in the Mart Townes, as they are to be bought at the ſtraũgers own doores: beſides it was founde, that, as ſome ſortes of ſilke wares were in a greater quantitie, then heeretofore brought by the ſaide *Norenberghe* Traders into England, ſo were the ſame wares much falſified, and empaired in reſpect of their former goodnes, and ſubſtance, ſince the beginning of the ſaide newe and diſordered trade and dealing: ouer and aboue all this, who knoweth not that the Merchauntes ſtraungers are either ignorant for the moſt parte, or haue not ſo perfect aduice from tyme to tyme, as the Engliſh Traders had, how Engliſhe, and foreigne commodities riſe and fall in Englande? By reaſon whereof, there is more advantage in ſelling to the ſaide ſtraungers, and in buyinge of them, then in dealing with the Engliſh Norenberge traders: for that they, or their friendes are weekelie in the Cloth-market at London, and ſo may, and no doubt doe take knowledge, what pryce euery ſorte, and kinde of Clothe, and Kerſye beareth, and then, being throughlie acquainted with the Exchange, do calculate the reckoninge of the orderlie Merchaunt Aduenturer, & ſhare him ſuch gayne as liketh them, and, when they bring their foreigne Commodities to the Marte Townes, knowing before hande, what is in requeſt in Englande, they either ſell the ſame at exceſſiue prices, or as they liſt themſelues, or ſhippe them

them into Eugland, & often reſerving the beſt wares to them ſelues, doe barter, and ſell the refuſe in the Marte Townes: to conclude, they buye foreign wares at *Norenberghe*, and elſe where vppon credite, for the current anſwering whereof, (as is well to be proued) they ſell their Engliſh Clothes, and Kerſyes, at vile, and baſe pryces, ſo rayſing their gaignes vppon foreigne wares, and caſting away the commodities of the Realme: and thus the ſtraunge Merchauntes are put from their accuſtomed trade with the M. M. Adventurers in the Mart-Townes for Engliſh commoditie, and the Marchauntes Adventurers from buying of foreigne wares at the ſtraungers handes, as much as lyeth in the ſaide Norenberghe Traders. Laſtlie where as it was ſaid by them, that, if the Merchaunts Adventurers were not of an enuyons diſpoſition, they would bee content, and wiſhe that their Country-men, and brethren ſhould rather gaigne then ſtraungers: The M. M. Adventurers are herein wrongfullie charged, for they can be very well content, to ſee their Countrie men (much more their Brethren) to thriue, and gaigne, but when as ſuch gaigne (reachinge alſo but to a fewe) is much more hurtfull to the common weale of England, & to the generall body of the Companie of M. M. Adventurers, then beneficiall to the ſaid few perſons, traders to *Norenberghe*, and other places out of the Marte Townes, there is no reaſon, but that it ought to bee forbidden, and cutt off: for ſuch priuate and vnwonted trade betweene Engliſh, and Engliſh in the Mart

Townes,

Townes, and ſuch ſtragling by free, and vnfree Engliſhe vſed in Germanie, and the Townes of the low Countries out of the Mart Townes, is ſo vnſeemlie, vnmerchantlike, and farre differing from the auncient, laudable, and right Engliſhe manner of the M. M. Adventurers our predeceſſours in former tymes, and is ſo offenſiue to all foreigne States, and people, as nothing can be more: and hath bene well ſeen, and perceiued in the *Hamburghers*, and Earle *Edgard* of *Embden*, who where much diſpleaſed with the diſordered trade at *Norenberghe*, and elſewhere: ſaying, that they had giuen the Adventurers leaue to trade with all kinde of foreigners in their Citties, but had no meaning, that their Citties ſhould bee vſed as through Faires, by trading from thence into other partes of the Empire, thereby to hinder the repaire of foreigne Merchantes to the ſaid Citties: the ſaide Earle went further, & compelled ſuch Engliſhmen, as traded to *Norenberghe*, to pay Tolle, not onely for ſuch Clothes, Kerſyes, and Engliſhe wares, as they ſhould tranſporte, and cary from *Embden*, but alſo for ſuch foreign wares, as they brought frō other partes vnto *Embden*, to the great preiudice of the State, and of the M. M. Adventurers, who by priuiledge were before free of all Tolles, and exactions whatſoeuer either inwardes, or outwardes, and ſurely it may be preſumed, that the *Hanſes* deriued that their falſe ſlaunder of the companie of M. M. Adventurers, in charging them with *Monopolie*, from none other head, or grōunh then from this diſordred trade vſed be-

betweene a few vnbridled, and private Engliſhe, and Engliſh within the Marte Townes, and without the Marte Townes into the Partes of Germanie, whereby they ſhew an exorbitant, & vnſatiable deſire, and greedines of gaigne, as not content with a reaſonable trade in the Mart Town, but incroaching, as it were, vpon the whole trade of thoſe partes, and of other men which can not chooſe, but be a great ey-ſore, & offence to all foreign, and ſtraunge Merchauntes. Nowe although I hope by this tyme it ſufficientlie appeareth, that the gouuerned, & well ordered trade of the M.M. Advenrurers Companie, is farre to bee preferred before a diſperſed, ſtragling, & promiſcuous trade, ſo that it needeth no further proofe, or demonſtration, yet becauſe ſome men holde this to be againſt the libertie of the ſubiect, and thinke, that the Adventurers by their orders reſtraine or limite the Clothe Market at home, it ſhalbe neceſſarie for theſe mens ſatisfaction alſo, to ſaye ſomething further of this matter. Firſt, it is true that *Bonum quo communius, eo melius:* and it were to be wiſhed, that there were enough for euery man, but that wil neuer be: furthermore, he looſeth a piece of his libertie wel, that being reſtrained of a little, fareth better in that eſtate, then if he were left to his owne greedie appetite: for wee haue ſeene by experience, that many men in our time leaping from their ſhoppes, & retayling, wherein they were brought vp, and gathered great wealth, and taking vpon them to be Merchauntes, and Dealers beyond the ſeas, haue in few yeres growē poore,

or ſo decayed in eſtate, that they might well haue wiſhed, that they had neuer left their former trade, and vocation, but ſuffered others quietlie to enioye their priuiledge, and diſgeſted the loſſe of a little ſcrappe of libertie, hurtfull to them ſelues, and rightlie beſtowed vpon others for ſuch ſervices, deſertes, and conſiderations, as no other ſubiect neede to envie them for the ſame, or to be agrieued thereat, except they will challenge the Prince of partialitie, or not to haue a dew care of the Subiect, or ſay that the preferrement, or exemption, whiche one man hath more, and before another in the common wealth, is againſt the libertie of the ſubiect, and ſo bringe in an ilfauoured confuſion, or intollerable equalitie, by vſurping vpon other mens rightes, and patrimonie ſo dearelie obtained, and with their great, and exceſſiue charges, & travaile mainteyned certen hundred yeares together, as the freedome, which the Companie of M.M. Adventurers enioyeth, hath been. But (I pray you) let vs ſee, what would followe, if theſe men had that, which they ſo much deſire, and contende for, ſurelie nothing elſe, then that, whiche hetherto we haue ſeene to haue fallen out: neither can there anie better ende come thereof, then heretofore of the like. For example: The Engliſhe had at the *Narue* in *Liefland*, a profitable Trade, and good ſales for their Countrie commoditie a good while together, till at length in the yeare 1565. a number of ſtragling Merchauntes, reſorting thether out of this Realm, the trade was vtterlie ſpoiled, in ſo much that many

The pedlarlike dealing of the Engliſh ſtragglers at the Narue.

many of them went about the Towne with Clothe vpon their armes, and measures in their handes, and solde the same by the *Arsine*, a measure of that Coū-trie, to the great embasing of that excellent Cōmo-ditie, the discredite of our Nation, and the finall en-poueriſhing, and vndoing of manie of the said strag-lers, which being made knowen to her Maiestie, and her Highnes right Honourable priuie Counsell, or-der was taken at the next Parleament, that the Town of *Narve* should bee comprized within the Charter of the *Muscovie* Cōpanie, to prevent the like pedlar-like kinde of dealing euer after, and the makinge vile of the principallest commoditie of the Realme.

Which one example, among other, may serue for ve-rification of that, which hetherto hath been saide a-gainst the stragling, and single Merchantes trade in Woollen commoditie, wherein further may be no-ted that which by experience is founde true, that in the vngouerned single trade, the first commer mar-reth the market for him that commeth after, and at his returne making haste (as his maner is) to prevent those which followe, hee setteth vp his wares at an high price, whiche afterwardes are hardlie pulled downe to a lower rate: the which is otherwise in the gouuerned trade of the Merchauntes Adventurers: for cōming together, and at one instant to one mar-ket, at their Mart Towne, where they are priviledged with conditions, and exemptions to their owne li-king, and for the furtherance of the Commerce, suf-ficient order is taken for the preventinge one of ano-

ther, and keeping in eſtimation of the commoditie of the land without vſing anie ſuch indirect dealing for this purpoſe as the *Hanſes* haue falſelie imagined, and as impudentlie publiſhed, whereas the ſingle, & ſtragling trader, wanting all the abouesaide helpes, and meanes, lyeth open to ſundrie wronges, inconveniences, and grievances, whiche to ſtraungers are incident, and common in ſtraunge places, and thereby are made ſubiect to manie exactions, new tolles, and exceſſiue paymentes, and charges for one cauſe or another, and conſequentlie are ſoone empoueriſhed, & driven from their trade by the foreign Merchaunt, or after they haue made the foreigne Merchauntes acquainted with the trade, are eaten out by them: whiche alſo would happen to the M. M. Aduenturers, if they were not ſo vnited, and held together by their good gouuernement, and by their politike, and Merchauntlike orders.

Here it may be obiected, that the more buyers there are, the quicker ſales, and higher pryces, and therfore if all others, as well as the Merchantes Aduenturers, might tranſporte Clothe, the more would be ſolde, and the prices would be the higher: To this I haue ſufficientlie aunſwered before, and proued the contrarie by experience, fetched from the 29 th yeare of her Maieſties Raigne, when as all, both Engliſh, and ſtraungers, that would, were by letters patentes directed from her Highnes to the Lorde Treaſurer, enabled to buye, and tranſporte Engliſh Clothe, and for that the Charter of the Citie of London ſhould not

be

be in the way, or an hinderaunce heerevnto (by reason that vnfree men are therby restrained from buying and selling within the saide Cittie, and that the ordinarie markett-place at that time for Clothe was in Blackwellhall) the signe of the *George* at *Westminster* in the Kings-streat was appointed a market place, for such Clothiers to resorte vnto, as would take the libertie of the aforesaide Letters patentes, but what followed thereof? I could neuer yet learne, that one wayn load of Clothe was vnladen at the saide place, neither, that the Steelyarde Merchauntes, nor anie of her Maiesties subiectes so enabled, as aforesaid, did euer take benefite by the same for fourtie Clothes, one man yet liuing onely excepted, who since (as I haue heard) hath often protested, that in buying 200 Clothes, he lost a good summe of his principall, and no mervaile, seeing those, who had serued, and had been brought vp in the trade of a Merchant Adventurer manie yeares together, could hardlie make one of one, such was the longesomenes of Returne, and the badnes of the tyme at that instant, thorough the coniunction of manie difficulties not heere inserted, besides those whiche haue been aboue touched. So that, not the want of buyers was the cause of the complaint of want of worke, and trade at that time, but rather the aboue-said causes. For it is verie well knowen, that the Companie of M. M. Adventurers is sufficient, and able enough, and ouer many to buy vp, and vent all that Cloth, and those sortes of woollen commoditie made, and endraped within the

Realme, wherewith they vſuallie deale, and whiche are vendible in the Countries, whether they trade beyond the ſeas: for they are not ſo fewe as 3500. perſons in number enhabiting London, and ſundrie Citties, & partes of the Realm, eſpecially the townes that lye convenientlie for the ſea, of whiche a verie great manie vſe not the trade, for that it ſuffiſeth not for all, but are cõſtrayned to get their liuing by ſome other meanes: and to the ende that thoſe, which are traders may be equally, and indifferentlie cared, and ſoried for, and that the wealthie, & richer ſorte with their great purſes may not engroſſe the whole commoditie into their owne handes, & ſo ſome haue all, and ſome neuer a whitt, there is a ſtint, and reaſonable proportion allotted, and ſett by an auncient order and manner, what quantitie either at once, or by the yeare euery man may ſhippe out or tranſporte, which he is not to goe beyonde, or exceed: Which whole ſtint, and proportion, if it were ſhipped, or tranſported out of the lande, would amounte vnto yearelie the double quantitie of all the Clothe of thoſe ſortes made in the Realme, whiche the M. M. Adventurers deale in, whereby it is euident, that this ſtinting is not a reſtraint, or limitation of the Cloth-markett (as ſome of late haue miſconceiued) but rather an œconomicall, and diſcreete partition, or aptoportioning amonge the members, and Brethten of the Companie, of the commodities, and benefites of the ſame: ſo that the wealthier ſort are not forgotten, but withall are kept from engroſſinge the whole

3500. Freemen of the Companie of M. M. Adventurers,

trade

trade, contrarie to the vſe, and maner of a well ordered common wealth, or familie, wherein all are prouided for, and not ſome ſtarued for want, whileſt others are ſwollen vp to the eyes with fatt, and plentie: *For it is merie in Hall, where beards wagge all*, according to that olde right Engliſhe Prouerbe of our Auncеſtours, who full well vnderſtood, what belonged to good houſe keeping, and practiſed the ſame better then in theſe our dayes is vſed, the more the pittie.

That the Navigation of the Realme is mainteyned and advaunced by the Companie of the Merchants Adventurers.

SINCE the erection of the Companie of Merchauntes Adventurers, and of other Companies trading *Ruſsia, Eaſtlande, Spaine, Turkie, &c.* the Navigation of the Realme is merveilouſlie encreaſed in number of good ſhippinge, and of able, and ſkilfull Maiſters, and Mariners, in ſo much, that whereas within theſe threeſkore yeares, there were not aboue foure ſhippes, beſides thoſe of her Maieſties Navie Roiall, aboue the burthē of one hundred, and twentie tonnes, within the Riuer of *Thamis*, there are now at this daye to be founde pertayning to London, and other places lying vpon the ſaide

ſaide Riuer, a great number of very large, and ſeruiceable Merchaunt ſhippes, fitt as well for the defence of the Realme (if need were) as for trafficque, whereof a good parte are ſett on worke by the ſaide Companie of M.M. Aduenturers: the reaſon whereof is, that this, and other Companies tranſporting at once, or at one inſtant, a great quantitie of goodes, and wares, and being to make returne of the ſame in foreigne cõmodities, doe goe in Fleetes, or with great and warlike veſſelles, well furniſhed, and this maner of going in fleet to the Marte Towne tendeth to the ſaufetie, and preſeruation of the ſhipping, and goods of the ſubiectes of the Realme, which amount to a great valew, and would helpe the enemie, and hurte our ſtate very much, if it ſhuld come into his hands, being thereby able to defende them ſelues frõ ſpoile and violence, ſo that ſince the troubles began with Spaine, not one ſhippe ſett out by the Companie of M.M. Adventurers, hath been taken by the enemie, whereas the ſingle Merchaunt goeing where, and when he liſteth, and not able to ſett a good ſhippe on worke, caſteth how to come of good cheape, and either ſhippeth in ſtraungers, or prouideth him ſelfe of ſmall veſſelles, and pinkes to ſerue his turne for ſmall quantities of wares, and fitt to flie, or runne awaye, if he ſhould chaunce to meete with the enemie, and yet he is many times ſnapped vp, and made a pray to the Dunkerkers, and other ſea rovers, both to his owne, and the publike hurt, as we haue oftentymes knowen of late yeares, whereby it appeareth, that

that the Nauigation of the Realme is mainteyned, aduaunced, and encreased by the vpholdinge of the Companie of M.M. Adventurers, and of other later Companies also.

That the Queenes Customes and Incomes are augmented by the mainteyning of the Companie of Merchantes Adventurers.

THis like reason is for the increasinge of her Maiesties Customes, and Incomes, as is for the Nauigation: for if the good, and serviceable shipping of this Realm be mainteyned, bettered, and increased by the great trade, and trafficque of the said Companie, and if that greater quantities of Clothe are transported, and vttered by them in foreigne partes, then if all were free, and sett at large, as hath been aboue plainlie, & throughlie prooved, it followeth necessarilie, that their saide vnited trade is more advãtageable, & yeeldeth more ample, and certayne profite, and encrease to her Highnes Customes, then a single, stragling, or loose trade by anie meanes can doe: The Custome also, which the said Companie payeth, commeth in yearlie, and at certain times in round summes, and payementes, whereby the turn of the Prince, and State is the better serued vpon anie occasion of need of monie:

nie: whereas the payments of the single Merchants come in by dribletes, and small parcelles: and heervnto the good ordering of the saide Companie, are no small helpe, especiallie in transportation, or shipping outwardes, for that the most parte of the Commodities, which the Merchauntes Adventurers carie out of the Realme, beeing shipped in appointed shippes at *London*, the saide Companie haue there certaine overseers, by whose order, and appointment they shippe that, which they shippe, and when the goods ariue on the other side of the seas, there are also officers, who attend, & take view of the Packes, Fardells, and other parcelles of commoditie landed, presenting, & enforming of such, which they finde to haue shipped in other maner then was appointed them to shippe, or not to haue entred, & paid their Custome and dewties rightlie to her Maiestie, who are subiect to great penalties, and forfeitures for the same: this course deuised, for the better collection of an Imposition leuied by the Companie vpon Clothe and other thinges for the maintenance, and vpholding of the saide Companie, doeth not only the better make knowen vnto them, but also vnto her Highnes officers of the Customehouse, what euery man shippeth away, so that by this meanes the Custome is the truelier, and fuller payed, whereas the stragler shipping his Clothe, and other commoditie in couert maner, hugger mugger, & at obscure portes, hath more aduantage, and meanes to defraude her Maiestie of her dewties, and rightes, then those which shippe at *London*,

don, & other great Porte Townes, either by false entryes, colouring of strangers goodes, and corrupting the Customers, and other officers, who, for the most parte, being needie persons in those small, & remote Portes of the Realm, are more ready to take rewards, and closelier may doe it, then the officers of the Customes at the Porte of London: to saye nothing of the great quantitie of foreigne wares brought into the Realme by the M.M. Adventurers, the Custom whereof is better, and trulier paide, then if the stragler, or straunger had the importation or payement thereof, or of the like quantitie, and if the Recordes were searched, no doubt, but it would so be founde: For it was not without some cause, that heeretofore we haue seene so great fraternitie, familiaritie, kindnes, and inward friendshippe betweene the Officers for her Maiesties Customes, and straungers, and that the said Officers, aboue all others, nowe wishe them againe so hartilie, & call so lowd for them, as though now the State were daungerouslie diuided, and vnkindlie at iarre with her auncient allies, and best foreigne friendes, and therfore time to prouide against a desolation, (which the land is readie to fall into (for want of these deare Allies, and kinde Friendes forsooth) whilest no man is foūd, that layeth it to heart, and bringeth them in again: Surely this is well preached for stockfish, and Rhenish wine, & the Alderman of the Steelyarde, and *EMANVEL vnn Meteren* haue great cause to giue them thankes, but not her Maiestie, or the State: the reasons I haue sufficient-

Customers of the out-Portes, bacbyte the M. M. Adventurers.

lie laide open, and shewed in this Discourse, whereunto I referre the indifferent, and discreete Reader. As for those Strangers, who haue termed the Companie of M.M. Adventurers, *A Private, Particulare, and Preventing Companie*, or haue written, or forespoken in that sorte of the said Companie, if it bee so, as these Customers say, they haue thereby well shewed their skill in *P.P.* and that they are not only straũgers to our State, and common Wealth, but withall privie vndermyners, & maligners of the good thereof: and let these Customers, while they warne other men, be wise, and warned themselues also, least by their too too much leaning vnto, and favouringe of such Straungers, they prooue not in the ende badd Customers to her Maiestie, and consequentlie corrupt, and vnnaturall members of their Countrie and State: and withall let them vnderstande, and be well assured, that the M.M. Adventurers both know, and regarde the essentiall partes, groundes, and pillers of Trafficque, and of olde tyme haue put them in practise, and yet at this day doe quietelier, better, & certainlier obserue, and maintayne them, then the Customers of the out Ports (I feare me) doe their office: Lastlie, where they saye, that the M.M. Adventurers by a bare, & idle pretence of the woord *Order*, and Orderlie transporting of the Credit, and cream of the Lande (*Idem*) haue brought the trade thereof to a kinde of Confusion, and them selues into such a Labirinth, that besides the distresse of the Clothiers, with all their dependentes, and generall com-

plaints

plaintes at home (to their Honourable Lordshippes endles offence, and trouble at the Counsell table) the commoditie it self is empaired, abased, and in a sorte dispised, &c. Surely either their intelligence hath deceiued them, or they shew thē selues to be caried with a malicious spirite: for who knoweth not, that the Trade of the M. M. Adventurers is not in a bare or idle presence, and shew, but in very deed the most orderly, & best framed trade that may be? True it is, that some straungers & others (possibly of these Customers, Familiars & Friends) haue by opē, & couert means at home, and abroad endevoured, and done their best to bringe the saide Trade to some notable confusion, & those of the Cōpanie into a laberinthe to the empairing, and embasing in deed of the commoditie of the land, but, thankes be to God, and our alwayes gracious Ladie, and Queen, they haue not yet had their willes, neither shall they (I hope) though these od Customers tooke parte with them neuer so much: and therefore they may well holde their Clack, and be content like subiectes with that, which those in higheſt authoritie haue so longe found good, & decreed shalbe so in their wisedoms, and not take vpon them like controllers, to check the doeings, which either of ignorance they vnderstand not the ground, and reason of, or through malice or vnnaturall affection towardes straungers more, then their owne Country-men, doe misconceyue, and misreporte of: but, because I haue often made mention of the *Hanses* in this discourse, it shall not by the

way bee amisse, to shewe what these *Hanses* are, and what hath passed betweene this State, and them in mans memorie.

Original of the Hanses & their doings in England.

The *Hanses* or Easterlinges, as they are commonly called, are people of certain free townes in Dutcheland, either lyinge vpon the Sea, or some navigable Riuers, and were in olde time twoo and seuentie in number, as they say: wherof *Lubeck* of the Wendish, *Brunswick* of the Saxone, *Dantzick* of the Prusse, and *Cullen* since it was of late yeares receyued into this confederacie of the Westfalish townes (for into these four partes or names they are diuided) were, and are the chiefest: these townes, by reason of their scituation, and to put a distinction betweene them, and other free townes of the Empire, were in old time called in Dutch *Aen zee steden*, or Townes on the seaside, or for breuities sake *Anseesche*, or *Hanseesche steden*, & in our language *Hanse stedes*, or *Hanse-townes*: these Townes having vnited them selues for the sea trade, and comerce, were full of good, and great shippinge and had an exceeding great trade, and trafficque in all the East Countrie-wares, and cõmodities, to wit, Corne, Stockfishe, Waxe, Hemp, Steel, Mastes, Fir-poles, Dele-boordes, Pitche, Tarre, Soape-ashes, &c. serving diuerse landes, and places there withall, and with their shippinge in time of neede, by meanes wherof they gott vnto them selues large Priviledges and immunities, to their great benefite, advantage, and enryching, & in our time they had their houses, or places of residence in this Realme, at *London*, in

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Norway at *Bergben*, in *Ruſsia* at *Nouogrode*, and in the low Countries at *Antwerpe*, whether they remooued from *Bridges*: each of theſe Houſes had their Chief, or Alderman, & Aſſiſtentes with a Secretarie, Treaſurer, Steward, and other neceſſarie officers, but all of them helde correſpondence with the Towne of *Lubeke*, as head of all the *Hanſe* Townes. Theſe Aldermen, and Aſſiſtentes had power to exerciſe Merchauntes lawe, among themſelues in their houſe, at *London* called the *Steelyard*, ſo named by reaſon of the ſteel, which they in great quantitie brought thether to ſell, and is a verie large, and ſpacious houſe, lying vpon the Thamis ſide, for that they were enioigned to dwell all in one houſe. Among other their Priuiledges in Englande, one was, That they might carie out, and bring in their Wares, and Merchandiſe for an old Cuſtome of one and a quarter vpon the hundred, and thereby were exempt from all perſonall, or Reall charge, or contribution, whiche all other Merchauntes are ſubiect vnto, ſaue that in time of neede, they were enioigned to repaire, and helpe to keepe one of the Gates of London, called *Biſhoppes gate*. Now in King *Edward* the thirdes time, Woolle was the beſt Merchandiſe of this Land, and the Cuſtome thereof the chiefeſt income, which the Prince receyued, as amounting yearelie to the ſumme of 65. or 70. thouſand poundes: which was muche in thoſe dayes. And we read that in the yere 1355 there was graunted by a Parleament to King *Edwarde* the third, Fiftie ſhillinges vpon each ſacke of Woolle to

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be caried out of the Realme in six yeares, so that the saide King might dispende every day one hundred Markes, which in six yeares tyme, amounted to fifteene hundred thousand poundes, reckoning for an hundred thousand sackes of Woolle a yeare transported, 50. shillinges vpon each sacke: This woolle was for the most parte vented in the low Countries, and there wrought, & endraped into Clothe, but in processe of tyme the Draperie, and Arte of makinge of Clothe was brought into this Realme, and the *Hanses*, who before time bought all their Clothe in the lowe Countries, and so caried them vpwardes, did now buye much Clothe in England, & transported the same cõtinuallie vpon the olde small Custome, which at the first was sett so low for the furtherance of the new begunne Draperie, and Arte of making of Cloth, but at length it being growen very great, and the Woolll trade almost wholie decayed, it was found, that the Prince, & State lost exceedinglie, by the passing out of Cloth vpõ the said small custome, and therefore in Queene *Maries* dayes, after her mariage with King *Philippe*, in the yeare 1557. and by his meanes the custome of Cloth, Kersye, and other Woollen commoditie, besides foreigne Wares, was raised frõ 14. pence to 6 shillings 8. pence the Cloth, to be payed by English men, and 13. shillings and 4. pence by straungers, transporting the same: by meanes whereof the Custome of Cloth endraped within the Land, was brought to be equall with the Custome of Woolle, when it was moste, and when the

said

ſaid Wooll was caried out vnwrought, and was draped in the low Countries: againſt this the *Hanſes* oppoſed them ſelues, pretendinge their priviledges ſo long agoe graunted, and by many Kings confirmed vnto them, as they ſaide, but for that in the yere 1550 vnder King *Edward* the ſixth, vpon dew examinatiõ of their pretended Priviledges, there were manie defectes, and faultes found therein, & for that the *Hanſes* for diuerſe abuſes, and falſehoodes in colouring, and freeing of foreigne goods, or ſuch, which ought not to enioye the libertie of the *Hanſes*, beeing none of their vnion, or confederacie, and for other cauſes had been by a Decree of the Councell adiudged to be fallen from their ſaide Priviledges, parte whereof were preſentlie reſumed, & called in, eſpeciallie that, which cõcerned the carying out of woollen Cloth, they obtayned no remedie all that Kings dayes, but ſince they haue been offred great fauour, as by that, which followeth, ſhall appeare: But not content heerewithall, they made their often complaintes to the Emperours Maieſtie, of the wrong done them, in ſeazing of their Priviledges in England: Firſt in the yeare 1564. at which tyme the Engliſh Clothe was baniſhed out of the low Countries by the Dutcheſſe of *Parma*, for the cauſes heeretofore expreſſed in this Treatiſe, and that the M.M. Adventurers helde their Martes at *Embden*, and afterwardes in the yeare 1582 at an Aſſemblie of the Empire at *Ausburge*, charging the ſaid M.M. Advẽturers, that they had taken away the ſaid *Hanſes* priviledges in Englande, to the ende,

Some of the Hanſes calumniation againſt the M. M. Adventurers.

that they might haue the whole Cloth trade in their owne handes, and ſo by their *Monopoliſh* dealinges, make Clothe deare in the Empire: ſetting alſo pryce before hand of that, which they ſell, & of that, which they will buye, and ſo committing open *Monopolie:* Wherevpon the Emperour wrote vnto the Earle of *Embden*, commanding him, to baniſh the M.M. Adventurers out of his Countrie, as Monopoliſhe perſons, & hurtfull to the Epmire. The Earle diſcreetlie conſidering that her Maieſtie might, & could eaſilie aunſweare the ſlaunderous complaintes of the *Hanſes*, chargeing her Highnes with wrong done vnto them, as ſhee did, by her Letters ſent to the Emperor in Aprill 1581. by Maiſter *George Gilpin*, at that tyme Secretarie to the Companie, and that the ſaid M.M. Adventurers were now in his Towne of *Embden* no more to be accompted *Monopolians*, then they were heeretofore in *Antwerpe*, and of late at *Hambrough*, during their Reſidence there tenne yeares together, and vpwardes, did not only not put the ſaid Decree, or Commaundement of the Emperor in execution, but tooke vpon him by his Oratour at *Spieres*, to defende the trade of the M.M. Adventurers in the Empire, and to iuſtifie the entertainement of them into his Countrie, wherein Doctor *William Muller*, at that time Chauncelour to the ſaid Earle, and ſince *Sindicus* of *Hambrough*, was a chief Councelour, or Actor: ſo that the Emperor, for that tyme, was well ſatisfied with the Earles doeinges, and aunſwer, and the ſaide M.M. Adv̄turers continued their trade at *Embden*,

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till that by the Duke of *Parmaes* too neare, and badd neighbourhood, and other vrgent causes they were forced of necessitie, & for the better vent of the commoditie of the Realme, to seeke a new place, and finallie to agree with the *Staders*, as is aboue at large rehearsed: howbeit the *Hanses* heere ceased not, but persisted in their former pursuites, and complaintes, till the yeare 1597. at which tyme the saide *Hanses* were much endammaged at sea by Englishmen of warre, who by vertue of a proclamation sett foorth by her Maiestie, tooke manie shippes of the Easterlinges goeing into Spaine with Corne, Ammunition, and furniture for shipping, all which was made good bootie, and prize, whiche doeing caused the *Hanses* to haue the better audience in their cõplaints, the yeare before by *Don Francesco de Mendoza*, Admirall of *Aragone*, in the name of the King of Spain, and the Archduke *Albert* highlie recommended to the Emperour, and earnestlie sollicited vnder pretext of withstanding, and chastising of Pirates & sea Robbers: to the forwarding of this busines holpe not a litle, that in May, and Iune 1597. *Florence* Earle of *Barlamont*, Doctor *George Westendorpe*, and *Iohn van Niekerôken*, Counsellors, were sent vnto the Kinge of *Denmarke*, and to the *Hanse* Townes, and namelie to the Towne of *Lubecke*, on the behalfe of the King of Spaine, and the Archduke *Albert*: these Embassadours, comming to the said Towne of *Lubecke*, did in writing declare the auncient friendshippe betweene the house of *Burgũdie*, and the *Hanse* Townes, & how

much the ſaid King had advaunced, and recommẽded their cauſe vnto the Emperour, touchinge their Priviledges in Englande, by the meanes of his Embaſſadour *Don Guillame de St Clement* reſident at *Praghe:* They alſo complained, that the *Hanſe* Townes vſed ſo ample trade with the Kings Rebelles (as they tearmed them) in the low Cũtries, by meanes wherof they, and the Queene of England were the more emboldened, and ſtrengthned againſt the ſaid King, wherefore they required, that the *Hanſe* Townes would for a time forbeare all trade whatſoeuer with the ſaid Rebelles, that thereby they might the ſooner be reduced vnder their Kings obedience, but if they feared to doe this, by reaſon of the league betweene *Englande*, *France*, and the *States* of the vnited Provinces, then they required, that they would alſo deale, and trafficque with the Kinges true and loyall ſubiectes in the Hauens of *Callice*, *Gravelinghe*, *Dunkerck*, *Nieuport*, *Sluyſe*, and *Antwerpe*, as well as they did with the *Hollanders*, otherwiſe their trade might bee well accompted for Partialitie, rather then Newtralitie, promiſinge further, that the ſaide *Hanſes* ſhould diſcharge their goodes, buye, ſell, and make returne in the foreſaide Hauens, without any payment at all of Tolle, Impoſt, Licence, or other charge whatſoeuer, and further ſhould be aſſured, and warranted by the Archduke *Albert*, from all dammage, or loſſe: Theſe Embaſſadours alſo ſeemed to bee much grieued for the iniurie, which they ſaid the Queene of England did vnto the *Hanſes*, in takinge frõ them their ſo auncient

cient Priviledges, for the recouerie whereof they offred all possible assistaunce, and to receyue them vnder the Kings protection: moreouer, to furnish them with shippes, munition, monie, and souldiours at all tymes, as need should require, offring them besides free trade, and trafficque in Spaine, and Portingal, so that they separated, and distinguished their shippes from those of the Kings rebellious subiects by some marke, or token, as they should thinke best: Lastlie, they shewed, that the Kinge had giuen order to the Archduke *Albert*, to send a notable Embassage to the Emperour, to procure the setting foorth of the *Mandate*, or Decree agreed vpon at *Ausburgh* Anñ. 1582. against the Monopolishe Englisih trade (as they pleased to call it) thereby to effect the restitution of the *Hanses* Priviledges, and that his disobedient subiects, the Queene of Englande, and the King of Navarre, as disturbers of the peace of Christendome, and stirrers vp of the Turke, might once bee suppressed, destroyed, and rewarded accordinge to their desertes: And albeit since the troubles of the low Countries, the *Hanses* haue been shewed but small favour, the saide Embassadours requested notwithstanding, that they would helpe to further the Embassage, whiche the Kinge of *Denmarke* had promised to sende vnto the Queene of Englande, King of Navarre, and the rebellious States, and to compell them to right, and reason, which the King of Spain, and the Archduke should at all times acknowledge for a singulare pleasure. About this time also the Kinges of *Denmarke*,

and *Polone*, the Emperour, & the Princes of the Empire ſent their Embaſſadours into England, and vnto the States of the vnited low Cuntries, all which was procured, & brought to paſſe, by the King of Spain, and his Miniſters, to none other ende, but to make the Engliſhe, as Pirates, and Robbers at ſea, and the Netherlanders, as Rebelles againſt their Prince, hated, and odious vnto al the world, taking vpon them alſo the cauſe of the ſaid *Hanſes* loſt privileges, which they pretende to haue in England, as by intercepted letters was ſufficientlie made knowen, & manifeſted to the Queenes Maieſtie, and the States of the vnited low Countries.

The King of *Polones* Embaſſadour *Paule Dlaline*, had audience of her Maieſtie the fourth of Auguſt 1597. who in ſtraunge and vnlooked for maner and tearmes declared vnto her Highnes, that the ſubiects of the Kinge his Maiſter *Sigiſmonde* the thirde, were not onely not gratified with anie new benefite, or favour at her Maieſties handes, but to the contrarie were depriued of commodities, & freedomes which her Predeceſſoures had giuen, and confirmed vnto them, and conſequentlie were debarred of all trade, and trafficque in her Kingdome, That likewiſe her Maieſtie had ſet foorth certain Edictes, or Proclamations by the which, cõtrarie to the Law of Nations, the Navigation, and trade into Spaine was forbidden, and vnder colour thereof diuerſe ſhippes of the ſubiectes of the ſaide King had been taken at ſea, and the goods therein made prize, and confiſcate, wher-

of

of he required reparation, and reſtitution, and that the trade Weſtwardes might remaine free, and open to thoſe of *Polone*, otherwiſe his Maiſter the Kinge ſhould bee forced, to vſe ſuch meanes, as thereby neighbourlie freedome, & reſtitution might bee obtayned. This was in brief the effect of the ſaide Embaſſadours ſpeach, whiche with a verie loude voyce hee deliuered in the Latine tongue: Wherevnto it pleaſed her Maieſtie to make him a ſhort aunſwere, and quicke for that tyme, referring him for further anſwere to certaine of her Highnes Honourable privie Counſeill, to witte, the Lorde *Burghley*, late high Treaſurer deceaſed, the Lord high Admiral, Sir *Iohn Forteſcue*, and Sir *Robert Cecill* Secretarie: to whome after the ſaid Poliſh Embaſſadour had deliuered his ſpeach, which hee made before the Queene in writing, and excuſed his rough kinde of ſpeaking, ſhewing that by his Commiſſion ſigned, and ſealed by his King in the aſſemblie of the States of *Polone*, hee was therevnto enioigned, he receyued the aunſwere following in the name of her Maieſtie, which properlie pertayning to the matter of the *Hanſes*, and aunſwering fullie, and verie pertinentlie the queſtion made by them about their old priviledges, I haue thought meet to inſert in this place.

The ſaid Honorable Perſonages therefore tolde him, that her Maieſtie, vnderſtanding of his cõming into Egland, was right glad thereof, as ſent from the King her brother, for whom not longe ſince ſhe had by

Aunſwere made on her Maieſties behalf vnto the aforſaid Embaſſage,

by her Interceſſion obtayned, Firſt a trewce, and afterwardes a peace of the great Turck, when the ſaide King, and his State were oppreſſed with ſore warre, which peace he yet enioyeth, to the great good, and benefite of his Kingdome, and therefore now expected, not onely a remembraunce of the ſaide good turne, but alſo dew thankes for the ſame, for that neuer ſince ſhe had receyued any from him: her Highnes had giuen him gratious audience, and read the King his Maiſters Letters willinglie, wherein ſhee ſaw nothing but that which ought to proceed *A Rege fratre, ad Reginam ſororem chariſsimam*, but ſaid they, you chaunging, as it ſhould ſeeme, the perſon of an Embaſſadour, began a longe ſpeach, and turned the ſame almoſt into a ſermone, the which notwithſtanding, her Maieſtie heard with patience, ſignifyinge vnto you onely in a few wordes, beſeeming the Maieſtie of a Prince, how vnworthily you in your Oration had layed the faute of manie thinges vpon her Highnes, and with how great equitie in deede ſhee hoped, that her Actions would bee well liked of all men, & ſo diſmiſſed you, to receyue further anſwer, according to your negotiation of vs her Counſeillours, who are beſt witneſſes of all her doeinges almoſt theſe fourtie yeares, as well with the Kings her friendes, as with her enemies, although we know no Prince in Chriſtendome for enemie, but the King of Spaine onely, whoſe cauſe you verie ſeriouſlie handled in your ſpeech. Firſt therefore wee required to ſee your Oration in writinge, to the ende, that wee might

might giue ſuch anſwere therevnto, as were conuenient, & for that you haue ſhewed vnto vs your cõmiſſion ſealed, and ſigned by the Kinge of *Polone* (as appeared vnto vs) in the aſſemblie of that kingdom, whereby we haue plainly perceiued, that you haue vttered nothing in your oration, which you had not order to declare, therefore wee can in no wiſe blame you for any thinge by you ſaid, although her Majeſtie looked not for any ſuch matter. Concerning the pointes of your complaintes, wee obſerue them to be theſe: Firſt you ſay, that your King perceiueth, that his ſubiectes haue not onely not receiued any new benefite from her Maieſtie, but are partly depriued of thoſe, which proceeded from her highnes progenitors, and were cõfirmed vnto them, & partly are in a maner excluded frõ all Nauigation, or Trade in this Realme: The ſecond point conteineth a grieuous complaint of your Kinges ſubiectes againſt the proclamations ſent vnto them, by the which all trafficque into Spain is forbidden them, and conſequentlie that their ſhippes haue bene in hoſtile manner taken by the Queenes men of warre, and the goodes therein made prize, and confiſcated, and finally you required in the Kings name reſtitution of the ſaid goodes, or reparation of the damages, and iniuries (as they terme them) receiued, and that they bee not hereafter hindred in the foreſaid trafficque which by the common law ought to bee free to all men, otherwiſe ſuch meanes of neceſſitie muſt bee vſed, whereby they may gett ſatisfactiõ by the ayde

and helpe of the saide Kinge: these being the chief heades, or pointes of your Embassage, and of that which your K. requireth, her Maieste hath thought good to answear therevnto sincerely, and according to the treuth of the matter in this manner: First, that your King is not rightely enformed concerning the first point, in that it is said that his subiectes are partly depriued of their priuileges, & partlie shutt out from all trade almoste in this Realme: for where there is mention made of his subiectes, as subiectes of the Kinge of Polone, this doubt may arise, what kinde of people the subiectes are, because they must be vnderstood either to be subiectes of the Dukedome of *Prussia*, or else to bee cõprised vnder the name of the *Hanses*, who haue no certaine seat, or place whence they are: for other then the subiectes of the Dukedome of *Prussia*, and the *Hanses*, as Merchantes of Germanie residing at *London*, the Queenes Maiestie neuer vnderstood, that there were any that pretended any priuiledge of Comerce aboue or before other Merchantes of all Europe: And whereas they complaine as subiectes of the Kinge of Polone, that they are depriued of their priuiledges, and almost excluded from all Trade in this Kingdome: First concerninge the right of their priuileges, question was made almoste fiftie yeares agoe in the time of Kinge *Edward* the sixth of the validitie of their former priuileges, and then the saide Priuileges were rightelie iudged void, and forfeicted for the manifest breach of the conditions thereof, and since the saide *Hanses*

could

could neuer proue, that they had iniurie done them in the ſaid reuocation: notwithſtanding all this they had graunted vnto them in their Trade into this Realme, and in the payement of their Cuſtomes more libertie, then any Merchantes of whatſoeuer nation through all Europe, yea by eſpeciall grace, & fauour they were made equall, and had, as much freedome giuen in their Trade, and in the payement of the Cuſtomes of their Merchandiſes, as the naturall borne ſubiectes of this Realm, accordinge to the true meaning and intent of their priuileges from the beginning: and if they haue not accepted of this, which by great fauour was offered vnto them, and ſo haue forborn their Trade in this Realme, the fault is in themſelues, neither can it be rightly ſaide, that they are excluded (as it ſhould ſeeme by the Kinges wryting that hee is informed) but rather admitted & retained with the ſame fauour, as the very mere ſubiects, & naturalls of the Crown of England are, then the which benefite what can be greater? Vnles, contrary to all humane lawe, the Queene ſhould haue more care of them, then of her proper ſubiectes and howe abſurde, yea howe deteſtable this ſhould bee, wilbe made manifeſt, if it bee but conſidered, what the office of a good Prince is in the rule, and adminiſtration of his kingedome: for if in regarde of his Kinglie office a Kinge be compared to the Huſband of an houſe, or to the Paſtour of the people, or (as he is ſaid to be in the diuine ſcriptures) to a foſter father of the people committed vnto him, who except hee

were ſtarke madde, would call that Prince a good father, or huſbande of the houſe, which ſhould haue more care of another mans familie then of his owne? Or a good Paſtour, or Sheepheard, whiche neglecting his own flocke, ſhould looke better to another mans then his owne? or woorthie of the name of a Nurſing, or foeſter King, which ſhould neglect his owne children, & nouriſh other mens children with his milke? And ſo theſe thinges may be well applied to the preſent cauſe, and queſtion in hande, for if the *Hanſes* ſhould haue better conditions, then the proper ſubiectes of the Kingdome, it would plainly followe, that the Prince of this Realme ſhould doe his owne naturall ſubiectes very great iniurie, contrarie to the law of Nature, & mans law, for by this meanes his ſubiects ſhould become poore, or rather deſtitute of all honeſt, and profitable trafficque, and Navigation, and the *Hanſes* ſhould growe opulent, and poſſeſſe the whole trade of the Realm, as Monopoliſtes of the whole kingdome. And by theſe reaſons, well waighed, it manifeſtlie appeareth, that thoſe, whom the King calleth his ſubiectes, doe moſt falſelie complaine, that they are excluded from lawfull trade in this Lande, when as freelie they may trade, and with the ſame conditions, as her Maieſties meere Engliſh ſubiectes may doe, and with farre better then all other Merchauntes, In ſo much as that they are preferred before all the neighbour people of this Realme, *French*, *Scottes*, *Flemynges*, *Hollanders*, & the reſt of the low Countrie Merchantes, and before

all

all the people of Dutchelande, the ſaid *Hanſes* onelie excepted. Wherefore her Maieſtie is perſwaded, that when the King of *Polone* ſhall vnderſtande theſe reaſons, he will change his opinion, the like ſhee expecteth at the handes of the Senatours of that Kingdome, if theſe things be aright imparted vnto them: For the complaintes of the *Hanſes* are ſo vniuſt, and vnreaſonable, that it may be doubted, whether the accuſtomed forme of iudgment in matters of doubt were obſerued by the aboueſaide Aſſemblie in this cauſe, or that credite was giuen to the Cõplainantes, the matter but ſlightlie examined, or that place was giuen to their importunate prayers, and requeſtes: For her Maieſtie hath that opinion of the ſupreme authoritie, and dexteritie of the Senatours of *Polone* in their proceedinges in the Aſſemblies of the ſaide Kingdome (which commeth not to the King by enheritaunce, but by election, and conſent of the ſaide Senatours) that it ſeemeth abſurd, and not likelie to be true, that they in their publike aſſemblie would decree any thinge againſt the Maieſtie of ſuche a Queene, whoſe like Chriſtendome hath not had in this age, nor anie other happier in noble Actes, or in length of raigne, or ſuperior in Princelie vertues, and yet that the ſame her Maieſtie ſhould be vniuſtlie accuſed, and without being heard, blamed, is a thinge not to be taken in good parte: for this amonge priuate men, was alwayes accompted vnreaſonable, much more being done againſt a Queene of ſo great Maieſtie, which hath ſo well deſerued of the King, &

his Kingdome. For it is apparant, that certain yeares paſt, the warre which the Turke had prepared againſt the ſaid King, and kingdome, by her Highnes interceſſion, ceaſed, and peace was graunted to the King, and his Realme, by the benefite whereof they to this daye enioye quietnes, and peace in that kingdome: The like good turne the Queene did in the yere 1553 to the Kinges Father *Iohn* King of *Sweden*, when as he, as well by his Embaſſadours the Lorde *Enicke* of *Wiſſenbroughe* his Coſin, *Andrew Kithe* Counſeillour and *Raſchias* his Secretarie, as alſo by letters ſent vnto her Maieſtie, earneſtlie entreated her Highnes, to ſende an Embaſſage into *Muſcouie*, to make interceſſion for a peace betwene the ſaid King, and the *Muſcouite*, whiche ſhee without delay willinglie performed, and by her perſuaſion drew the *Muſcouite* to make peace with the ſaid King vpon indifferent, and reaſonable conditions: Which two excellent benefites done by her Maieſtie, the one to the Father, the other to the ſonne, and to their kingdomes are therfore rehearſed, becauſe that in remembraunce thereof, a better, & more courteous courſe of proceeding might iuſtlie haue been expected from the King, & from the Senators of his Kingdom, then by your Oration (it appeareth) was by them determined: In ſo much, that if at the beginning of your inſtructions, it had not been ſett downe, that your commiſſion was decreed vpon in the Aſſemblie of the Realme, it might haue been ſuſpected, that ſome pointes of your ſaide Commiſſion, not to be lyked, were compoſed

poſed by ſome Spaniards, and ſlaunderous Ieſuites, of whiche Ieſuites it is ſaid there is a great number ſpred through manie partes of the Kingdome of *Polone*, whoſe malicious raylinges, are often caſt out in publike places againſt her Maieſtie, and this Kingedome, without cõdigne puniſhment, or any reprehenſion at al: and therfore it may be the more likelie to be true, that they as ſworne men to the Kinge of Spaine, together with the Spaniardes of late entertayned by the King, and heard in the publike Aſſemblie of the Realme, haue procured this Embaſſage with theſe kinde of Commiſſions in fauour of the Kinge of Spaine.

The ſecond point of your Embaſſage conteyneth a requeſt for free Nauigation, or trade into Spaine, which we deeme to be ſuch, as the Kinge of Spaine him ſelfe hath lately in ſerious manner recommended for him ſelfe: for this prohibition was not ſett foorth by the Queenes Maieſtie before ſhee was of neceſſitie compelled therevnto: leaſt the Kinge of Spaine, open enemie to this Realme, ſhould bee furniſhed with Armes, Shippes, and Ammunition with ſuch facilitie, & in ſuch great aboundance, as he was from the Maritime partes of Germanie, by meanes whereof hee might mainteyne longe warre againſt this Realme, ſo that if he could not gett theſe aydes, and helpes, it is manifeſt that he ſhould bee forced to leaue of warre, and offer peace not onely to this Realme, but alſo to others, againſt whom hee moſt vniuſt-

vniuſtlie maketh warre, whereas therefore it is plain, that this Kinge of Spaine, being an enimie to this Realme, is furniſhed, armed, and ſtrengthened to continue vniuſt warre with ſhippes, victuall, and other warlike prouiſions out of certaine Citties vnder *Polone*, and other maritime Citties of Germanie, in what ſorte can her Maieſtie (being oppreſſed by the Spaniard with vniuſt warre) tollerate or ſuffer that ſuch orders, and helpes ſo openly, and ſo copiouſlie ſhould be caried to the ſaid King her enemie for the cõtinuance of the warre againſt her? And although you manie times repeated it, that the ſaid her Highnes prohibitions were contrarie to the lawe of Nations, it is ſtraunge, that you would alleadge this againſt the law of Nature, when as by Nature it ſelfe, it is ordained, that euerie man may defende him ſelf againſt force, which law not written, but borne with vs we haue not learned, but receyued, and drawen from Nature it ſelfe, beſides it is prouided by the auncient lawes, that it may be lawfull, to forbid, yea to lett, and hinder, that no man miniſter armes, victuall, or any thing elſe, whereby the enimie may be holpen to make warre, as by this one, wherewith manie other agree, you may perceyue: *Cotem ferro ſubigendo neceſſariam, Hoſtibus quoque venundari vt ferrum & frumentum & Sales non ſine periculo capitis licet:* Neither may it heere be omitted, that this prohibition is plainlie contayned in diuerſe Articles of the Charters, giuen to the *Hanſes* by the Kinges of Englande, and firſt in the Charter of King *Edward* the firſt King of

H. lib. 39. tit. 4. de Publicanis.

of Englande, in theſe wordes following: *Licebit prædictis Mercatoribus quò voluerint tam infrâ regnum, & poteſtatem noſtram, quàm extrâ mercantias ſuas ducere, ſeu portari facere, præterquam ad terras manifeſtorum, & notoriorum Hoſtium Regni noſtri:* the verie ſame clauſe, and promiſe is in expreſſe wordes conteyned in the Charters of *Edward* the ſecond, and *Henrie* the ſixth Kinges of England, which exceptions ſo oftentimes repeated, by ſo manie Kinges, ought to admitt no reaſon to the contrarie, eſpeciallie on thoſe mens behalfe, who challenge their right by vertue of the ſaid Charters onely: but we ſhould haue had no neede to propounde theſe our reaſons vnto you, but that we ſuppoſed you were ignorant howe this queſtion of prohibiting ayd to be giuen to the King of Spain, for making warre againſt vs, was handled about two yeares agoe before your King in his Counſeil, when as certaine Merchants, or Mariners of *Danzick*, complained of the like prohibition, and had obtayned an Edict againſt her Maieſties people, which Edict being oppugned with many reaſons by our Embaſſadour Doctor *Parkins* heere preſent, was abrogated, & made void, ſo that there followed no execution vpon the ſame, but the *Danzickers* were diſmiſſed: which happened in the yeare 1595. ſo that to treat further of this matter, wee ſhould ſeeme to doe that, which is alreadie done: yet wee doe not denie, that which is alleagded by ſome on your behalfe, that theſe prohibitions are hurtfull to your people, for that while the ſame are in force, they cannot with

their profite ſell their Corne, and many other things growing in their country: but for this is an eaſie remedie, if your people would bringe a great parte of the goodes by her Maieſtie prohibited into this Realme of England, where it ſhould bee lawfull for them to ſell the ſame with all fauour, and with their great gaigne, and carie another part thereof into the low Countries and Fraunce, or into Italie, ſo it bee done without fraude, and that the ſame come not into the Spaniardes Countrie: and by this meanes they may carie out and tranſporte all their goodes ſaufe, to the greater benefit of the ſubiectes of *Polone*, then otherwiſe, which might bee prooued manifeſtlie by diuerſe examples, and preſentlie by this, that by carying their commodities into the other Countries beſides Spain, they ſhould avoide the arreſting of their ſhippes, whiche happeneth euery yeare in that Countrey: ſo that many tymes, to their great charge, they are compelled to rigge their ſhippes, & fitt them for warlike vſe, and ſo with eminent daunger to hazard the loſſe of ſhippes, and men in fight at ſea, as too often the *Danzickers*, & others haue prooued: and euen this preſent ſommer, it is knowen, that the Cõmaunders of the Spaniſh Nauie haue hunge vp and drowned in the Hauen of *Ferole* manie Mariners, Maiſters, and Pilotes of ſhippes pertayninge to the Maritime Cities of the *Hanſes*, for that they went about to deliuer them ſelues, and their ſhippes from violent, & conſtrained bondage: For the avoyding of the like loſſe, and dammage, her Maieſtie this laſt

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yere by publike writing ſett forth in Dutch, French, and Latine tongue, declared, and gaue warning, that if there were any ſhippes of foreigne Nations by any meanes, either with, or againſt their willes; deteyned in the Spaniſhe armie by Sea, at that tyme readie to invade Englande, it ſhould bee lawfull for them, for their ſafetie, to withdrawe them ſelues out of the ſaid Armie to ours, or to departe home quietlie to their owne Portes, without any damage to be done vnto them by her Maieſties people: and it is certaine that manie ſhippes, as well of *Danzick*, as of *Hamborough*, were founde deteyned by the Spaniardes amongeſt their ſhippes, which the Engliſhe men of warre did their beſte to ſaue from burninge when they did ſett fire on the Spaniſhe Navie: and if the Kinge of *Polones* Counſellours had knowen of this writing, it had not been congruent, that without mention of ſuch a benefite done to the Kinges ſubiectes, they ſhould proſecute theſe matters in the worſer parte: neither can we here paſſe ouer in ſilence, that before her Maieſtie did put the foreſaid prohibitions in execution, ſhee many wayes made it knowen, as well by publike letters, as alſo by Admonition of the Eaſt countrie Merchauntes, that ſhee now was of neceſſitie compelled for the defence of her Realme againſt the King of Spaine her open enemie, to forbidde the tranſporting of Armes, Victuall, and other things into Spaine, wherewith the ſaid King might ſet foorth and furniſh his Navies, and Armies, and without the which he could not poſſiblie continew the warre a-

gainſt this Realme. Beſides all this for the iuſtifying and defence of the ſaide her Maieſties prohibitions, it manifeſtlie appeareth, that the verie like haue been often made by other Kinges, & namely by the King of *Polones* Father *Iohn* King of *Sweden*, & by *Sigiſmond* King of *Polone*, graundfather to the King, that nowe is, who by force tooke much Merchandiſe from her Maieſties ſubiectes, for that they were to bee caried into *Muſcouie*, which many honeſt Engliſhe Merchauntes, hereby brought into pouertie, haue cauſe to remember. The like was alſo oftentymes done by the Kings of *Sweden* to the ſubiects of *Denmarke*, who would haue traded into *Muſcouie*: And for confirmation heereof we can ſhew the authentique commiſſions of the ſaid King *Sigiſmonde*, giuen to his Admirall *Otto Mannickes* the 25th of May 1566. and others of the 12th of Marche 1569. to *Aſmo Genrick*, & the like to *Hans Necker*, Captaines of his, to whom authoritie was giuen vnder the ſaid Kings hand, and ſeale, to intercept, take, ſpoile, & make hauocke of all thoſe, which by way of Merchandiſe, or otherwiſe, ſhould carie into *Muſcouie* Powder, Ordinance, Saltpeter, Victuall, or anie other kinde of ware tendinge to warlike prouiſion. There bee alſo letters extant, written in verie earneſt maner by the ſaide Kinge *Sigiſmond* vnto her Maieſtie, dated in Marche 1568. wherein by manie argumentes hee ſhewed, that the Trafficque, or Nauigation into *Sweden*, & the *Narue*, forbidden to all men in generall, was moſt iuſt and lawfull, and by that meanes had prouided, that his

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enemies the *Muſcouites* ſhould not be furniſhed, and armed not onely with armes, weapons, and ammunition, but with other greater matters, which might help his enimie, & to that end he writeth, that he had ſett a watch in the ſea of men of warre, with commaundement that if anie mā againſt their will would trade into *Muſcouie*, they ſhould take, and ſeaze vpon him, & all his goodes: of this prohibition the Coūſellours of *Polone* can not bee ignorant, neither was that wiſe and prouident Kinge heerein to bee reprehended: And after that theſe reaſons were deliuered vnto the ſaid Embaſſador, he was aſked whether anie thing could be iuſtlie oppoſed againſt them, whervnto he anſwered, that he had none authoritie to diſpute of theſe matters, but onely to lay foorth, that which he had in commiſſion, and to require an aunſwere therevnto: the ſaide Councellours therefore thought it not fitt to vſe any longer ſpeache on that behalfe: But to conclude auouched for a full anſwere of all that hath been by the ſaide Embaſſadour propounded, that ſeeing it is manifeſt that this deed of her Maieſtie is allowable, not onely by the law of Nature to defende her ſelfe, but alſo by the expreſſe Ciuile lawe, and examples of the Kings of *Sweden*, & *Polone*, eſpeciallie by diuerſe Charters of the Kinges of England, therefore her ſaid Maieſtie could not be rightlie accuſed either of iniuſtice, or Iuſtice denied in anie her doeinges, for as (ſaide they) ſhee hath alwayes profeſſed (taking the ommipotent GOD the ſearcher of heartes to her witnes) it was neuer in her

mynde to cõmit any thing againſt the ſacred rule of Iuſtice, ſo ſhee wilbe ready to giue eare to anie complainant, either her own ſubiect, or ſtraunger, and by her officers to doe iuſtice to the ſaid plaintife, according to equitie, and reaſon: the which ſhee will alſo performe towardes you, if you ſhall recõmend anie expreſſe cauſe of any ſubiect of the kingdom of *Polon*. For her Maieſtie is ſo ready, to giue anſwer to *Piſman* of *Danzick*, who (as it is ſaide) followed you from thence, for the proſecutinge of certaine his ſewtes for iuſtice, that if you did not in ſuch haſte vrge your departure, wee her Maieſties Counſelours, before your departure, ſhould haue authoritie, to heare, and determine his ſaid ſewtes, according to reaſon, and equitie: And to make an end of this longe, yet neceſſarie aunſwere of ours to your obiections, for that many of the thinges publiſhed in your Embaſſage, may by imputation be taken in ill parte againſt the honour, and dignitie of her Maieſtie, all which by our ſaide aunſwere are plainly proued to haue proceeded from your Kinge ill informed, her Maieſtie with good reaſon doeth expect, that when her aunſweres ſhall before the Kinge, and the Senate of his Realme be compared with the complaintes of the Complainers, the ſaide Senate will prouide, that the trueth of her Maieſtes Actions bee no leſſe publikelie by ſome meanes repaired, and reſtored, then the contrary hath beene attempted by falſe accuſations, and the Kings publike Embaſſage, that ſo it may appeare, that the Kinge hath that regarde of the preſeruati-

ſeruation of mutuall freendſhippe, as her Maieſtie doth expect from a Prince that is her confederate, & brother: this aunſwere was made by their Honors aboueſaid on the 13th day of Auguſt 1597. at *Greenwitch*, with the which the ſaid Poliſhe Embaſſadour departed, and heerein the queſtion betweene the Engliſhe, and the *Hanſes* is fully laide open, and aunſwered, and their malice againſt the State of the land plainly diſcouered: ſo that it were more then time, that they were reſtored, and ſatisfied in their vnreaſonable pretences, as ſome without dew conſideration vnaduiſedly deſire. About this time, to witt, the firſt of Auguſt 1597. the Emperour continuallie called vpon by *Don Guillelmo S. Clement* ordinarie legder for the Kinge of Spain at *Prage*, and ſtirred vp as well by the aboueſaide Embaſſages, as by the importunate, & clamorous ſollicitations of the *Hanſes*, permitted a Mandate, or Edict to bee publiſhed, and ſett vp in the Empire, the tenoure whereof enſueth, taken out of a tranſlation of the ſaide Mandate into the Netherlandiſhe tongue, and printed *cum Privilegio* at *Bruſſelles*, to the greater and more enormous iniurie, and reproch of her Maieſtie, & her Highnes Actions, and of the Companie of M. M. Adventurers, as no doubt their meaninge was, that were the authours & doers thereof, and conſequentlie to make the whole Engliſh nation, and name the more odious, and condempned of all men, thereby alſo openlie iuſtifying, and making lawfull all the vniuſt, and vnlawfull attemptes, and practiſes of the

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Kinge of Spain and his ministers against her saide Maiestie, Realme, and people.

The Emperours Mandate against the M. M. Aduersarys.

Wee *Rudolph* the seconde, by the grace of God Elect Romane Emperour, &c. to all and singulare Princes Electours, Princes Spirituall, and temporall, Prelates, Earles, Barons, &c. sende freendshippe, fauour, and all good: Heretofore in the time of our right welbeloued Grandfather, and Father the Emperours *Ferdinand*, and *Maximilian* (of famous memorie) as also in the time of our Raigne ouer the Empire, the Confederate Dutche *Hanse* Townes, and some others thereby interessed, many yeares together, and at sundry times, and tydes not onely at our Court, but also at former meetinges of the Empire, especially at *Ausbourghe* in the yeare 1582. and at *Regensbroughe* in the yeare 1594. last past, haue in complayning wise declared and shewed: That they three hundred yeares agoe, and aboue had obtayned & gotten notable priuileges, immunities, freedoms, and exemptions within the Realm of England, partly by the especiall grace, and fauour of the Kinges of that Lande, and partlie with great summes of monie for the good, and commoditie of the holy Empire, and the members of the same, and for the aduancement of the generall Trade, and Comerce, which priuiledges, &c. they haue held, & enioyed till now, not without their great, and notable charge, as hauing bene graunted, approued, and confirmed by fourteen Kings of Englande successiuely, and in the

Falsis narratis tacita & suppressa veritate.

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yeare 1470. by foreknowledge, and consent of the States of the Lande, both spirituall, and temporall, made of the force, and nature of a perpetuall, and irreuocable contract: wherevpon they helde their residence and Officers within the cittie of *London* in an house, or counter called (the Dutche Guild hall) where they vsed to buye Clothe of the subiectes of the Crown of Englande, and caryed the same from thence into Dutchelande, by meanes whereof Englishe Clothe was to be bought *good cheape* throughout all the said Country of Dutcheland, frō whence also on the other side a Trade was driuen with all kinde of wares seruing England, to the no small profitt, and gaigne, as well of vs, as of the subiectes of the Empire, aud of the Crowne of Englande: Whiche notwithstanding certaine couetous Companies of Merchauntes, whereof some call them selues Merchauntes Aduenturers, seekinge their owne priuate gaine and lucre, are sprongc vp in the saide Realme, who by bad meanes haue wrought and practised, to the great, & notorious hurt and damage of the foresaide *Hanses*, and haue taken vpon them to bringe in manie vntollerable innovations, contrarie to the aboue said olde Customes, Priviledges, & perpetuall contract obtayned, and purchased with the great costes, and charges of the saide *Hanses*: So that it is come to passe, that the Queene of Englande nowe raigning, will not any longer endure, or cōfirme the said *Hanses* Priuiledges, and perpetuall contract, and

Notwithstāding this good cheap the Lantgraues of Hessen had at one time out of Englande 600. Clothes for their Liueries: which they would not haue bogbt there if the Hanses had solde Clothe so good cheap as here is said.

nowe finallie the laſt yeare to the further, and more intollerable grieuance of the foreſaide *Hanſe* townes (ſpeciallie for that they founde it not reaſonable nor fitt to yeeld vnto the ſaide M. M. Adventurers a Reſidence according to their deſire at *Hamborough*) hath wholy forbidden, and cutt off all priviledged trade, both within, and without the ſaide Realme of England, thereby the better to ſtrengthen the trade of the foreſaid Adventurers Companie, and to bringe their Monopoliſh trafficque into a full courſe, and trayne with Engliſh Clothe, & commoditie in ſuch forme, and manner, as the Staplers Companie haue drawen the trade of Engliſh Wooll into their owne handes onely, whiche nowe is apparent, in that the *Hanſes* can not enioye their Priuiledges, & well purchaſed trafficque, whereas on the other ſide, the Engliſhe Adventurers Companie encreaſeth in number, to witt in Dutchelande, firſte at *Embden*, where they were receiued by the Earle of *Eaſtfriſelande* that then was, and afterwardes in other places more, and now preſentlie at *Stade*, within the Archbiſhopricke of *Bremen*, where they haue ſettled the Clothe trade, and haue drawen vnto themſelues onely other commerces, and commodities whiche the Dutche Merchauntes in former times vſed to enioye, and farther to the preiudice of the *Hanſe* townes, haue erected an eſpeciall Societie, Staple, Colledge, Confederacie, and alliance, by meanes whereof they haue not onely made diuerſe and ſundrie Monopoliſh prohibitions, treaties, and accordes hurtfull to the com-

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mon wealth of the holy Empire, againſt vs, & againſt the Right, and ordinance of the ſaide Empire, and againſt all vſe of Merchauntes, but alſo haue raiſed Clothe, and other wares accordinge to their owne willes, to ſuch a dearenes, " that the pryce thereof is almoſt as high againe, as it was wont to be when the *Hanſes* might vſe their Priviledges. Beſides the ſaide Engliſhe Adventurers doe not ſell their Clothes after they haue been wett, and put in the water without retching, or ſtretching, as it ought to be by the policie, conſtitutions, & penale ſtatutes of the Holy Empire: and for that the ſame hath been left *vnpuniſhed a long tyme, other Merchauntes, which buye Clothe of the ſaide Adventurers doe take occaſion of the like badd example: Finallie, through the drift and dealing of theſe Adventurers, the Dutche Merchaunt hath the beſt of his trade taken from him, omittinge heere howe that the Queene of Englande " with armed hand hath preſumed, or advanced her ſelfe to cauſe the Merchauntes Adventurers ſhippes to be convoyed from *London* to *Stade*, thorough the Dutche ſea, and within ours, and the Holy Empires Iuriſdiction, & commaundement: and beſides, hath ſett vp, and publiſhed all kinde of Edictes tending to the hinderaunce, and empeaching of the freedome of the ſea, and Navigation, togeather with arreſtes

How came it to paſſe thē that diuerſe Factours, and Seruants of ſundrie the Princes Electours, & Lordes of the Empire, bought their liuerie clothes of ỹ Merchants Adventurers at ſuch time as the Hanſes might ſhip clothe out of Englād as good cheap as the Merchantes Adventurers?

* There are none who deſire a reformation in this poinc more then the M. M. Adventurers.

" Vnto this the Hamburgers gaue occaſion by exacting a tolle by forcible hande laying their men of warre before the Swinge for that purpoſe: Defenſio autem non tantum omni iure eſt permiſſa, ſed etiam pro defenſione rerum & bonorum alium non modo vulnerare ſed & occidere licet, & is qui illicitè exactam gabellam ſoluere recuſat, neque Deum neque homines offendit.

which haue followed vppon the ſame, by meanes whereof the *Hanſe* Townes, and other our ſubiectes, and the ſubiectes of the Holy Empire, are forced to forſake, and leaue vnfrequented the foreſaide free Navigation throughout the whole "Weſtern ſea, and in the *Ems* ſtreame, and partlie in the Eaſterne ſea, and elſwhere, for which cauſe the foreſaid *Hanſe* Townes, and others thereby intereſſed, haue called vpon vs, and the Holy Empire, and in moſt humble manner haue prayed, and beſought vs, to haue conſideration of all theſe matters, & to giue them heerein ayd, and aſſiſtance.

"Vnto this ſee her Maieſties aunſwear made to the Poliſh Embaſſador.

For aſmuch then, as we founde, that theſe complaintes, and grievances were of very great waighte, and importance, and ſeeing that by our neighbourlie, and friendlie writing to the Queene of England we haue but ſmally prevailed, and laſtlie, for that we haue little profited with our Emperial Mandate and ordinances heeretofore ſett foorth, againſt the Reteiners of the ſaide M. M. Adventurers, but to the contrarie, perceyuing that for the defence, and juſtifying of theſe matters, all kinde of Diſputations, excuſes, queſtions, & delayes were mooued & brought foorth, it ſeemed to vs verie neceſſarie, before all other things, for our more aſſurance of the trueth on this behalfe, to cauſe a diligent, and perfect information to be taken, "whether the Engliſh Adventurers Companie did vſe anie trade or *Monopolies* contrarie to our, and the Holy Empires ordinances, which being

"It were reaſon the M. M. Adventurers

ing done, it was founde by the Depoſition of not a fewe credible perſons at *Francfort* vpon *Mayn*, in the Lent Marte 1581. and by other information on this behalfe taken, that all, that is aboue written, clearely appeared, and that which is more, that the foreſaide Adventurers Colledges were heretofore forbidden, and baniſhed out of *Danzick* in *Pruſsia*, as alſo out of ſome places of the low" Burgundiſh, & other Coũtries: wherevpon hauing with our ſelues waighed the whole matter, according to the importãce therof, and conſidered, that theſe things concerned not onelie the *Hanſe* Townes, but alſo all the ſubiectes, and Merchauntes of the Holy Empire, the further proceeding therin was deferred to a generall Aſſembly of the Empire, holden at *Auſbrough* in the yeare 1582: againſt wch we cauſed the Acts & Propoſitions concerning the ſame, to be ſent vnto all the Princes Electours, to the ende, that they might the Ripelier, and better conſider vpon the ſame, and afterwardes we laide the matter in deliberation of all the States of the Holy Empire, who after mature Counſel, and bethinking, gaue vs their advice, and opinions vpon the ſame, praying vs with all, that ſeeing there was no meanes to obtayne at the foreſaid Queene of Englandes handes the full reſtitution of the foreſaide *Hanſes* priviledges, hereditarie agreement, and contract, and that in the meane while the Engliſhe Aduenturers Companie vſed, and went forwarde with an hurtfull *Monopolie*, againſt all right, and reaſon, that we would with publike Edictes, forbid the foreſaide

were heard what they could oppoſe to this depoſition.

Howe the M. M. Adventurers were baniſhed out of the Burgundiſhe lowe Countries, appeareth before, and if they bee not now baniſhed out of the Empire by the practiſe of the ſame men the Spaniſhe Miniſters, let the wiſe iudge.

ſaide Merchauntes Adventurers their trade by water, and by lande, throughout the Holy Empire, and the Iuriſdiction, and Commaund of the ſame: And further, that we would ſtraightlie charge, and vppon great penalties enioigne euery State, whom it might concerne, not to permitt the ſaide M. M. Aduenturers, or their Conſortes, Confederated Companies, Factours, and ſervauntes, to haue recourſe, or anie commō trafficque in any place within the holy Empire, but rather to expell, defende, and forbidde the ſame, vpon paine of our indignation, and loſſe of all Royalties, Fiefes, Rightes, and Iuriſdictions, which to the diſobedient on this behalfe might appertaine, or belonge, either vnder vs, or the Holy Empire. And if ſo bee, that contrarie to this our Emperiall commaundement, the Engliſhe Merchauntes Aduenturers, or their Factours, or ſervauntes, ſhould be ſo bolde, as to vſe, or dryue anie trade either in buying, or ſelling of Engliſhe Clothes, Wooll, or other wares what ſoeuer, at any place within the holy Empire, that then each Magiſtrat and Ruler within his Commaund, or Iuriſdictiō ſhould be holden where the ſaide bought or ſolde goodes may be found, and where ſuch trade is vſed, preſently to ſeaze vpon, and confiſcate the ſaide forbidden goodes, as by the contentes of the adviſe, and determination to vs at that tyme deliuered at *Auſburghe* on the behalfe of the Electors, Princes, and States of the holy Empire, more at large appeareth: howbeit wee proceeded not to the publication of the ſaid Mandates, but nothwithſtan-

ſtanding that the Deputies of the Hanſe townes earneſtly inſiſted, to haue a finall concluſion of this matter, wee firſt of all ſought by all gentle meanes, to induce, and moue the Queene of Englande, for the confirmation of good neighbourhood, to giue vs, and the Empire, as alſo the *Hanſe* townes contentment in the aboue-written complaintes, and grieuances, without compelling vs for that cauſe to vſe any ſharper meanes, or remedie: and to that end we gaue her Ambaſſadour, at that time being at *Auſbroughe*, to vnderſtand, through what vrgent and neceſſary occaſions the foreſaid Mandate was concluded, and reſolued vpon by vs, and the States of the holy Empire, and with all to offer that, whenſoeuer it ſhould like the Queene of Englande, to ſuffer the matter to be brought to a freendly treaty, and communication, and to that end ſhould appoint her Embaſſadours with full commiſſion, that wee then on the otherſide would bee willinge, to depute alſo certain perſonages of qualitie, and countenaunce, before whom both parties ſhould appeare at ſome conuenient place within the Empire, and lay forth their doleances, and griefes, and ſo growe to a compoſition, and determination in all reaſon, and with a true and faitfull hearte and meaninge: Wee alſo admoniſhed, and finallie moued the *Hanſe* Townes to their great coſte, and charges, to ſende a particular Legation into Englande vnto the Queene, where after they had preſented our letters of Interceſſion, which wee gaue them with them, a friendlie agree-

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ment,and compoſition was required,but they could not effect, or profite anie thinge on this behalfe, but receyued of the Queene a cleane contrarie anſwear. In the meane while the Aduēturers, with their Monopoliſhe trade, and dealinges encreaſed more, and more, and multiplied in the Empire, and ouer, and aboue this,the Engliſhe did vnto the ſubiectes of vs, and the holy Empire in the open ſea,great violence, and damage: which diſcommoditie beganne,continued, and encreaſed whole twelue yeares longe, to witte, from the Aſſemblie at *Auſburgh*, 82. to the Aſſemblie laſt held at *Regenſbroughe* 94. to the preiudice,and contempt not onely of our Emperiall Interceſſiō,but alſo of the writing of the *Hanſe* townes, and of the many wayes ſought for friendlie appointment, in ſo much, that the *Hanſe* Townes, at the laſt holden aſſembly at *Regenſbrough*,againe complained on this behalfe,and we,conſidering the manifeſt neceſſitie of the cauſe, layd the ſame a freſhe in deliberation,and conſultation with the Electours, Princes, and States which then appeared, and with the Coūſellours, Ambaſſadours, & Deputies of the Princes: which appeared not perſonallie at the ſaid aſſembly: And foraſmuch, as it was founde, to bee againſt all right, and reaſon, that the *Hanſes* ſhould bee ſpoyled in the Realme of Englande of all their Iuſt tittle, hereditarie agreement, and Priuileges gotten, as aforeſaide with their great coſte, and charges, and that on the other ſide the Marchauntes Adventurers with their Conventicles, Companie,and trayne,without

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any "permission of vs as presently raigning Romane Emperour, and supreme head of the holy Empire, yea that which is more, contrary to all former recesses, & Mandates, should *de facto* intrude themselues, and goe through with their trade, to the notable losse, and damage of all the States of this Empire, great, and small, and to the bringing in of a dearth in Clothe, and woolle, and by their Monopolishe practises (which according to the constitutions of vs, and the holy Empire deserue great punishement) to goe about to weaken, and ouerthrow the auncient, and honest trade of Merchaundise vsed amonge the laudable Dutche Nation: without making mention in this place of the outrage, force, & violence, which the foresaid Englisch haue committed, with manifold robberies, & spoilings at sea, to the daungerous consequence, and preiudice of the Iurisdiction, and superioritie which pertayneth, and belongeth vnto vs, and the holy Empire in the same: therefore in the foresaide assemblie of the Empire, it was with one voice, and consent concluded, and resolued, and of vs by the Electors, Princes, and States required, that if so bee (notwithstandinge all the great paynes and charges hetherto in vaine bestowed) at our newe instance, and requisition, with deduction of all the circūstances thereto necessarie, the Queene of England would not let the *Hanse* Townes enioye their Priviledges free, certaine, and whole, as heretofore of old they had them, and would not also suffer the Commerce, and trade open, and vnmolested, that then we

Contractus sunt de Iure Gentium liberi: & vt liberi sunt ita etiam ignorante Magistratu ex generali legum concessione cū quouis non hoste liberè & licitè exercentur.

ſhould in deed aſſiſte the *Hanſe* Townes, as the faithfull ſubiectes of vs, and the holy Empire, and ſhould cauſe the aboue-mentioned Mandate agreed vppon at *Auſborough* 1582. to be publiſhed, and put in execution againſt the hurtfull Monopoliſhe Companie of the M.M. Adventurers, without any fauour, diſſimulation, or compoſition: whiche conſultation in ſuch maner by the Electours, Prince, and States in generall, with one conſent propounded, at former Aſſemblies, and now againe renewed, were according to right and reaſon confirmed, and ratified, and conſequentlie the fifth of Iuli 1595. wrote vnto the foreſaide Queene louinglie, and neighbourly requiring her a new, and ſetting before her eyes the foreſaide reaſons, with manie other motiues thereto ſeruing, that ſhee would cauſe the old, and continuall complaintes, together with the oppreſſions, and damages of the foreſaid *Hanſe* Townes to ceaſe, but we receyued ſuch an anſwere vnto this our writing, that thereby it may ſufficientlie bee perceyued, that our hetherto longe vſed patience is not onely receyued with ſmall thankes, but with all, the ſaid Queene preſumeth, to aſſcribe vnto her ſelfe ſome intereſt heerein, & to drawe the ſame into conſequence, as though by our deferring of the publiſhing of the ſaide Mandates, the intruſion of the foreſaid M. M. Adventurers were allowed, or that, as if it ſtoode in the liking, choice, will, and power of the Queene, to take from the foreſaide *Hanſe* Townes their dearlie purchaſed libertits, and hereditarie accorde, and ſo well not, that

that in anie other place then in England (where shee may be Iudge and partie) that anie treatie be held on this behalfe, and besides requiring, that her subiectes according to their owne good likinge, and pleasure, may haunt, liue, & exercise their Merchandise within the Empire of the Dutche Nation, which for vs, and the Empire it falleth altogether greeuous, and verie contumelious to dissemble any longer: therefore then, whereas we in regarde of our Emperiall office, and place, cannot any longer delay to put in execution the foresaide consultations, and Decrees of the yeares 82. and 94. for the furtherance of the common welfare, and for necessities sake, especiallie seeing the Monopolies, and preiudiciall, dangerous, and vnlawfull forestalling (which as is abouesaide, are vsed among the English Aduēturers Companie) by testimonies, and other credible informations, are altogether open, and manifest, and not onely, according to the common written lawes, but also accordinge to the published constitutions of the Empire, are forbidden vpon great penaltie, and punishment, to witte, losse of goodes, and chattell, and banishement out of the lande.

Therefore is it, that we prohibite, banishe out, and proscribe all the forenamed Englishe Merchantes, to witt, the whole Companie of the M. M. Adventurers, together with their hurtfull dealings, traffickes, and contractinges out of all the holy Empire, so that such hurtfull Commerces, and dealinges of the Englishes Adventurers, with the conventions, com-

pactes, and alliances on this behalfe made, from this time forwarde ſhalbee forbidden and made voide, without that any man by himſelf, or any other ſhall, or may hereafter exerciſe, or practiſe the ſame: ordayning therefore, and commanding expreſſely by our Romiſhe Emperiall power, and authoritie, accordinge to the reſolution of the Electours, Princes, and States of the Empire agreed vpon, renewed, and approued, that vpon paine of the ban, and proſcription of vs, and the holy Empire, all and euery Merchantes, & dealers in Engliſhe Clothe (to the Companies of M. M. Adventurers any wayes allyed or aſſociated) together with their Factours, Agentes, Atturnyes, and Seruants, that within three monthes after the publiſhing, and ſetting foorth of theſe preſentes, they departe, and remoue without further delay, or oppoſition out of the Rule, cõmand, and lande of vs, and of the holy Empire, as alſo of the Electours, and common States, and ſpecially out of the towne of Stade, ſcituate in the Archbiſhoprick of *Breme*, & out of all other partes, and places, where they commonly haue their reſidence, and conventicles, or exerciſe their Trade: and that from hence forwarde they wholy, and entirely abſtaine, and forbeare from all recourſe, and Commerces howſoeuer they may bee called, by water, and by lande, openly, or priuilie, throughout all the whole Empire. And further wee giue commandement to all Princes Electours, Princes, States, and ſubiectes of vs, and the holy Empire, vpon the forfeicture of all their Royalties,

alties, Fiefs, and other rights, and dewties obtayned of vs, and the holy Empire (which euery one whosoeuer shall dare wilfully to doe here against *ipsa facto* shall forfeict) that they vnto the saide Englishe, naminge themselues Merchantes Adventurers, their Societies, Companies, Factours, and Seruantes, no where in the holy Empire, by lande, or by water, doe giue, yeald, or permit any open, or secrete conveighance, passage, help, or other fauour, but the same doe altogether lett, and prohibite: And, if so be that the Englishe Adventurers, their adherents, factours, or seruantes boldly shall goe forward, or proceed, contrary to this our Emperiall Mandate, and Commandement, either in buying, or selling of Clothes, and Woolle, or with exercisinge any other Commerces, howsoeuer they may bee called, in any quarter or place of the holy Empire, in such case, hereby authoritie and power is giuen, and earnestly is enioigned, and required, that all Magistrates, and Rulers, vnder whose commande, or Iurisdiction such place immediately doeth lye, and where such kinde of trade is vsed, or where such bought, or solde goodes may be found, to apprehend the persons without delay, and to arrest, and confiscate the forbidden goodes. And further it shall not be lawfull for any Magistrate, or Ruler in the Empire, to giue Convoy, or Saufeconduict with whatsoeuer woordes, meaning, colour, or clauses the saide Convoyes, or saufeconductes, may be conceiued, or sett downe, to the Englishe Adventurers Companies, Merchantes, or dealers, neither

ſhall they be conducted, or conuoyed by any Magiſtrate, or Superiour in the ſaide Empire: And in caſe that the Magiſtrat, or Superior ſhalbe heerein negligent, or ſlacke, & that we, or our Procurour Fiſcaell ſhalbe thereof adverтiſed, then our will is, that the ſaid Fiſcaell (according to our commaundement to him in earneſt maner alreadie giuen) on this behalfe, to adverтiſe the Magiſtrate, or Superiour, where the ſaid Merchauntes, and Dealers dwell, or reſide, and admoniſhe the ſame ſuch Engliſhe trade foorth with out of hande to forbid: and if ſo bee the ſaide Magiſtrate, or Superiour, doe not ſo within the prefixed tyme, we will on our Emperiall Courtes parte, or otherwiſe our foreſaid Fiſchale ſhall haue full power, right, and authoritie to proceede to the execution of this our Emperiall Mandate, and by vertue of his office preſentlie to call in queſtion the diſobedient, without all fauour, or diſſimulation, as the neceſſitie of the cauſe ſhall require, without that it ſhalbe lawfull for the aforeſaid miſdoers to alleadg, or produce any exceptions, or declinatorie delay in any maner what ſoeuer. And for that it is lawfull, and permitted to euery man to giue information againſt the Tranſgreſſours, therefore whoſoeuer firſte ſhall informe the Magiſtrate, where offence is made of the ſaide offence plainlie and truelie, or in caſe of negligẽce in the ſaid Magiſtrate, our Fiſcale, he ſhall haue the fourth parte of the offendours goodes, wherein alſo he ſhalbe aſſiſted, & holpen by the foreſaid Magiſtrate, or Superiour, or in default thereof by vs, and

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our Emperiall Chamber right, & by all other States of the Holy Empire: according to this let euery mā take knowledge, how to demeane him ſelfe. Giuen in our Royall Caſtell at *Praghe*, the firſte day of the moneth of Auguſt Anñ 1597. of our Romiſh Kingdome the two and twentieth yeare, of *Hungarie* the 25th, & of *Bohemia* alſo the 22th. Subſcribed *Rudolph*, Paragraphed *I. D. W. Freymondt, ad Mandatum Sacræ Cæſareæ Maieſtatis proprium*, And ſigned *An. Hanniwalt*: and the priuie ſeale of the Emperonrs Maieſtie was printed vpon the ſame in forme of a *Placcart* or *Edict*.

Theſe are the woordes of the Mandate, which I haue fullie and truelie ſett downe, to the end that it may the better appeare, what the cauſes were of the ſaid Mandate, and what good freends the *Hanſes* are to the ſtate of England. Cōcerning the cauſes, I note them to be three in number: Firſt, *The taking away of the Eaſterlinges Priviledges in Englande*. Secondlie, *The doeings of the Engliſh men of warre at the Sea*. And thirdlie, *The Monopolie vſed by the Merchantes Adventurers*. To the firſt twoo cauſes her Maieſtie at ſundrie times hath ſufficientlie anſweared, and namely by her Letters written to the Emperour in the yeares 1585. and laſtlie by the anſweare giuen to the Poliſh Embaſſadour, as aboue at large is ſet downe. As for the Monopolie, wherewith the M. M. Adventurers are charged, it is but a meere ſlaunder, and iniurious imputation, maliciouſlie deuized by the *Hanſes*, to blear the

the eyes of the States,& Princes of the Empire withall,and to drawe them vnder colour of complayning on the M.M. Adventurers, as Monopoliſhe traders, to ayde, and aſſiſte the ſaide *Hanſes*, to recouer their Priuiledges againe, and to mainteyne them therein, contrarie to all reaſon againſt the Engliſh Nation, as I doubt not anone moſt plainly,& clearely to proue.

Her Maieſtie beeing informed of the aboueſaide Mandate, ſent Maiſter *Iohn Wrothe*,& Maiſter *Stephen Leſieur*, with letters to the Emperour, and diuerſe of the Electours, and Princes of Germanie, declaringe her Highnes opinion of this proceeding as an vniuſt practiſe and doeing of the *Hanſes*, and therefore required,to haue the ſaid Mandate reuoked,or ſuſpended, but beeing vncertain, what would follow herevpon, it ſeemed good vnto her Maieſtie in the meantyme, to direct a commiſſion to the Maior,and Sheriffes of the Cittie of London, in maner following.

Cõmiſsion directed to the Maior & Sheriffes of London againſt the Hanſes by her Maieſtie

ELIZABETH by the grace of God, Queene of Englande, Fraunce, and Ireland, Defendor of the faith,&c. To our righte truſtie, and wellbeloued the Maior,and Sheriffes of our Cittie of London,greeting. Whereas there hath been directed a Commaundement,by the name of a Mandate,from the Romane Emperor to all Electors,Prelates,Earles and all other Officers, and ſubiectes of the Empire, recyting ſundrie complaintes made to him by the alkied Townes of the Dutche *Hanſes* in Germanie, of diuerſe

diuers iniuries cõmitted againſt them in our Realm, and likewiſe vpon complaint made by them againſt the Companie of M.M. Adventurers, without hearing anie aunſweare to bee made to the ſaide *Hanſe* Townes in diſproofe of their complaintes, the ſame being moſt notorious vniuſt, and not to be mainteyned by anie trueth, And yet neuertheles by this Mãdate the Engliſh Merchantes, namely the M.M. Adventurers are forbidden to vſe anie traffique of Merchandiſe within the Empire, but are commanded to departe from thence vpon great paines, and to forbeare openlie, and ſecretlie, from all hauens, & landing places, or to vſe anie Commerce by water, or by lande in the Empire, vpon paine of apprehenſion of their perſons, & confiſcation of their goodes, with ſundrie other extreeme ſentences pronoũced againſt our ſaid ſubiectes: heereupon, although wee haue ſent our letters expreſſely to the Emperor, and to the Electors, and other Princes of the Empire, declaring our opinion of this proceeding, to be vniuſtlie proſecuted by the ſaide *Hanſe* Townes, and therefore haue required to haue the ſaid Mandate either reuoked, or ſuſpended, yet beeing vncertaine what ſhall follow herevpon, wee haue thought it agreeable to our honour, in the meane tyme, to commaunde all ſuch as are here within our Realme, appertayning to the ſaide *Hanſe* Townes, ſcituated in the Empire, and eſpeciallie all ſuch, as haue any reſidence in our Cittie of London, either in the houſe commonly called the Steelyarde, or in any other place elſwhere, doe

forbeare to vſe any maner of Traffique of Merchandiſe, or to make anie contractes, and likewiſe to departe out of our Dominions in like ſorte, as our ſubiectes are commanded to departe out of the Empire, vpon the like paines, as are conteyned againſt our ſubiectes in the ſaid Mandate. And for the execution of this our Commaundement, wee will, that you the Maior of our ſaide Cittie of London, & the Sheriffes, ſhall foorthwith repaire to the houſe, called the Steelyarde, and callinge before you ſuch, as haue charge therof, or doe reſide there, to giue them knowledge of this our determination & commandment: Charging them by the 24th of this moneth, (being the day that our Merchauntes are to departe from *Stade*) they doe departe out of this our Realm: charging them alſo, that they giue knowledge thereof to ſuch, as bee of any of the *Hanſe* Townes, belonging to the Empire, remayninge within any parte of our Realme, to departe likewiſe by the ſaide day. And you the Maior, and the Sheriffes, calling vnto you twoo of the Officers of our Cuſtome-houſe, to take poſſeſſion of the ſaide houſe the ſaid 24. day, to remaine in our cuſtodie, vntill we ſhall vnderſtande of anie more fauourable courſe taken by the Emperour, for the reſtitutiō of our ſubiects to their former lawfull trade within the Empire, & this ſhalbe your warrant for the execution of the premiſſes. In witnes whereof we haue cauſed theſe our letters to bee made patent, witnes our ſelf at *Weſtminſter:* the thirteenth of Ianuarie in the Fourtyeth yeare of our Raigne.

Raigne. In this ſtate the matters haue honge euer ſince, the M.M. Adventurers ſtill expecting a Diete, or general aſſemblie of the Princes, and States of the Empire, in hope that by her Maieſties gracious intervention for them, the aboue ſaid Mandate may be either abrogated, or ſuſpended, and they reſtored to their former trade, & Priuiledges in the Empire, for without ſuch an aſſemblie this can not bee done, (as appeareth plainlie by the anſwear of the Emperour, and Princes vnto thoſe letters whiche it pleaſed her Highnes to write by the aboueſaid Maiſter *Wrothe*, & M^r *Leſieur*) & on the other ſide the *Hanſes* ſtill labouring, to haue the aboueſaide Mandate extended and retched farther then the contentes thereof will bear, to witt, that all Engliſhmen generallie, & all Engliſh wares ſhould be baniſhed, and forbiddē the Empire: for that otherwiſe they ſee, that they looſe their labour, and coſt, & the Merchantes Adventurers finde meanes, to continue their trade, & to vent the commodiries of their Countrie in Germanie, maugre all that their aduerſaries, and ill willers can doe, though not in that ſorte that were conuenient, but becauſe you ſhall ſee, what cauſe the *Hanſes* haue to cōplaine in ſuch clamourous manner, as they doe of iniuries done them in this Realme, I will giue you the view of a Decree of the Right honourable priuie Counſell, giuen at *Weſtminſter*, the 24th day of Februarie in the ſixth yeare of the raigne of King *Edward* the ſixt, in theſe wordes following.

Decree against the Hanses in the Raign of Kinge Edward the sixth.

In the matter touching the Information exhibited against the Merchantes of the *Haunse*, commonlie called the Merchauntes of the Steelyarde, vpon good consideration, as well of the said Information, as also of the aunswere of the said Merchaunts of the Steelyarde, and of such Recordes, Writinges, Charters, Treaties, Deposítions of witnesses, and other recordes, and proofes, as hath been exhibited on both parties, it was founde apparaunt to the Kings Maiesties priuie Counsell as followeth.

First, it is found, that all liberties, and priuiledges pretended to be graunted to the said Merchantes of the *Haunse*, be void by the lawes of the Realme, forasmuch as the same Merchauntes of the *Hanse*, haue no sufficient Corporation to receiue the same: It appeareth also, that such graunt, and Priviledges, as the said Merchauntes of the *Haunse* doe claime to haue, doe not extende to anie persons, or townes certaine, and therefore vncertaine, what persons, or whiche townes should enioye the saide Priviledges: by reason of which vncertaintie, they haue, and doe admitt to be free with them whom, & as many, as they list, to the great preiudice, and hurt of the Kinges Maiesties Customes, and yearelie hinderance of twentie thousand poundes, or neare thereabouts, besides the common hurt to the whole Realme. It appeareth also, that if the pretended grauntes were good by the Lawes of the Realme, as in deede they bee not, yet the same were made vppon condition, that they should not avowe, or colour anie foreignes goodes,

or

or merchandiſes, which cõdition the ſaid Merchants of the *Hanſe* haue not obſerued, as may appeare by office founde remayninge of recorde in the Kinges Maieſties Excequer, and by other ſufficient prooues of the ſame. It appeareth alſo, that one hundred yeares, and more, after the pretended priviledges graunted to them, the foreſaide Merchauntes of the *Hanſe* vſed to tranſport no Merchandiſe out of this Realm, but onely into their owne Cuntries, neither to bring into this Realm anie wares, or merchandiſe, but onlie ſuch, as were commodities of their owne Countries: where at this preſent they doe not onely conveighe the Merchandiſe of this Realme into the baſe countries of *Brabant*, *Flaunders*, and other places near adioyning, and there ſell the ſame, to the great dammage, and ſubverſion of the laudable order of the Kings Maieſties ſubiectes tradinge thoſe parties for Merchandiſe, but alſo doe bringe into this Realme, the Merchandiſe, and commodities of all foreigne Countries, contrarie to the true meaninge of the grauntes of their Priviledges, declared by the auncient vſage of the ſame: by meanes whereof the Kinges Maieſtie hath not onely loſt much in his Cuſtomes, but alſo it is contrarie to the conditions of a Recoigniſance, made in the tyme of King *Henry* the ſeuenth. It appeared alſo, that like as the Priviledges heretofore graunted to the ſaide Merchauntes of the Steelyarde, being at the beginning reaſonably vſed, were commodious, and much profitable vnto them, without anie notable, exceſſiue, or enorme preiudice

to the Royall estate of this Realme, so nowe of late yeares, by taking of such, and so manie as they list into their Societie, and by bringing in the commodities of all other Cuntries, as carying out of the commodities of the Realme into all other places, their said pretensed Priuiledges are growen so preiudiciall to the King, & his Crowne, as without the great hurt thereof, and of the whole estate of this Realm, the same may not be longe endured.

Item, in the tyme of King *Edward* the fourth, the saide Merchauntes of the *Haunse* forfeited their pretended Priuiledges, by meanes of warre betwixt this Realme, and them, wherevpon a treatie was made, and agreed, that the subiectes of this Realme should haue like liberties in the lande of *Prusse*, and other places of the *Haunse*, as they had, and ought to haue vsed there, And that no Impostes, new exactions, or other prestes should be sett vppon their persons, or goodes otherwise, or by other meane, then before ten, twentie, thirtie, fourtie, fiftie, yea an hundred yeares agoe, and aboue had been, or were sett, which hath been, and is daily much broken, and speciallie in *Danzick*, not onely by prohibitinge English men freelie to buy, & sell there, but also in leauying vpon them certaine exactions, and impositions, contrarie to the said Treatie: And notwithstandinge, that diuerse requestes haue been made, as well by the Kings Maiesties Father, as by his Maiestie, for the present redresse of such wronges, as haue been done to the English Merchants, contrarie to the said Treatie, yet

no

no reformation hath hetherto enſewed. In conſideration of which the premiſſes, & ſuch other matters as hath appeared in the examination of this matter, the Lordes of the Kings Maieſties priuie Counſeill, on his Highnes behalf decreed, That the Priuileges, Liberties, and Franchiſes, claymed by the foreſaide Merchauntes of the Steelyarde, ſhall from hence foorth be, and remayne ſeazed, and reſumed into the Kinges Maieſties handes, vntill the ſaid Merchantes of the Steelyarde ſhall declare, and proue better, and more ſufficient matter for their claime in the premiſſes, ſaving, and reſeruing vnto the ſaide Merchantes of the Steelyarde all ſuch, and like liberties of comming into this Realme, and other the Kinges Dominions, buying, ſelling all, and all manner of trafficke and trade of Merchandiſe in as large, and ample maner, as any other Merchauntes ſtraungers haue, or of right ought to haue within the ſame: This order aforeſaid, or any thing herein conteyned to the contrarie notwithſtanding. This decree was firmed by *T. Ely Chauncellour: Winchester: Northumberlande: Bedforde: Westmerland. Shrewſburie: E. Clinton: T. Darcie: N. Wutton:* and *W. Cecill:* By the contentes whereof, a man may plainlie ſee, that what ſo euer happened to the *Hanſes* in Englande, they them ſelues gaue the occaſion thereof, and therefore had no iuſt, or lawfull cauſe to complaine: Notwithſtanding Queene *Marie* by the way of Receſſe, the lande being full of troubles, reuoked this Decree, and reſtored the *Hanſes* to their former Priuiledges, in the moneth of Aprill

Queen Marie reuoketh the foreſaid decree.

prill Anñ. 1553. at which tyme the *Hanſes* had their Commiſſioners in Englande about a Treatie offred by King *Edward*, and accepted by the *Hanſes* after the aboueſaid reſumption, wherevnto ſhee was induced for two reaſons: the one was, for that the *Hanſes* Cõmiſſioners promiſed, that their inordinate trade, forbidden by the lawes of the lande, and their too too much frequenting the low Cuntries, ſhould be left: The other was, for that by meanes of the daungerouſnes, and hardnes of the tyme, the aboueſaid Decree of the reſumptiõ of the *Hanſes* Priuileges, could not be dealt in: but this promiſe of the Commiſsioners not beeing performed, the ſaide Queene in the yeare 1556. cauſed her foreſaid Reuocation to bee altered, and by a Decree reſtrayned the *Hanſes* trade intothe lowe Cuntries with Clothe, and their bringingin of anie other foreigne Wares, then thoſe of theirowne landes only, ſuffering them notwithſtanding in other pointes, to vſe their pretenſed Priuiledges, and afterwardes, by mediation of Kinge *Philippe*, yeelding to a further Moderation, with condition, that the *Hanſes* within one yeare next enſuinge, ſhould ſende their Commiſſioners into England, to conferre, treat, and conclude with her Hignes Coũſellours, in what ſorte their Priuiledges ought to bee taken, and vſed: A whole yeare paſſed, & fiue weekes beſides without anie newes, or tydings of any Commiſsioners, and to requite the manifold fauours they had receyued, they at an aſſembly of the *Haunſes* at *Lubeke*, publiſhed an Edict againſt all Engliſhe men, for-

Revocation of the foreſaid reuocation.

forbidding all Trade, or Commerce with them, and ſtaying the carying out of Corne, which was prouided for the ſeruice and neceſſitie of the Realm: yet for all theſe indignities, the ſaid Queene was contented, that Commiſſaries on both partes ſhould meet in England, and agree vpon, and ſett down a certain, and immutable maner of Trade to be helde, and obſerued on both ſides: but the *Hanſes* were ſo farre from acceptinge of this gracious offer, that they wholy refuſed it, as by a petition of theirs exhibited to King *Philippe*, the third of Iune 1557. appeareth, wherein they declare the cauſe of that their refuſall to be for that they could not haue in this Realm any other Iudges of their cauſe, but ſuch as were ſuſpect, not ſparing, or excepting the Queene her ſelfe, of whoſe good will, and fauour., they had receyued ſo often experiēce, and triall. In theſe tearmes the *Hanſes* Priuiledges ſtood all Queene *Maries* dayes, after whoſe deceaſe her Maieſtie, that now is, ſucceeding, & finding them as they were left without anie other ground or foundation, then the Princes fauour, and good pleaſure, yet at the ſollicitation of *Suiderman*, & others, Commiſsioners from the *Hanſes*, her Highnes was contented, that a meeting, and communication ſhould be helde in the yeare 1560. whereas the *Hanſes* ſtood, and inſiſted vpon their old treaties, and thoſe appointed by her Maieſtie propounded certaine other Articles, intituled, *A moderation of the old Priuiledges*, with this clauſe of ſingulare fauour, *Neque tamen excellentiſsima Regina propter hanc Moderationem*

Matter paſſed betwene her Maieſtie & the Hanſes.

ab vllo ſuperiori legitimo Iure vlla ex parte recedi vult, ſed ſaluum ius, ſaluas actiones, ſaluam denique reliquã omnem in hac Commercij cauſa materiam, & ſibi ex altera parte, & ſuis ſucceſſoribus, & ex altera parte Confœderatis Ciuitatibus, & eorum poſteritati reſeruat: But the *Hanſes* Commiſſioners not liking thereof, the Treatie brake vp without anie effect: In which tearmes the matter hunge till the yeare 1572 at which tyme new Commiſſioners from the *Hanſe* Townes, comming into England for other cauſes, they renewed their former ſewt, and petition: wherevnto they receiued this anſweare, That cõcerning the Cuſtome of their goods there ſhould nothing more be exacted of them, then was propounded to the former Commiſſioners in the yeare 1560. all this while her Maieſties ſubiects were depriued of all priuiledge, and in diuerſe of the *Hanſe* Townes hardly, and extremely vſed, as at *Danſicke*, *Deuenter*, *Campen*, and *Swoll*, to the great hurt and hinderance of the Trade, and becauſe the *Hanſes* vnmeaſurably frequented the Cittie of *Antwerpe* with Engliſhe Commoditie, the M.M. Adventurers were forced to drawe themſelues wholy to the ſaid Citty, and leaue *Berghen op Zoom*, where they vſed to keepe twoo Martes in the yeare: But finally the ſaide Adventurers were conſtrayned to leaue *Antwerpe* alſo, and to ſeeke another place, as hath bene aboue rehearſed, ſo that in the yeare 1567. they obtayned priuiledges for ten yeares of the town of *Hamburghe*, with this condition therevnto added. *Quod elapſis ſupradictis annis conceſsio dictorum Priuilegiorum renouaretur*

uaretur, & continuaretur in infinitum, ſi interim non cederet in ciuitatis ſuæ damnum, vel diſpendium: That the ten yeares time beeing expired, the foreſaide Priuiledges ſhould be renewed, and continewed for euer, if in the meane while no hurt, or damage happened to their Cittie thereby: But for all this when the ten yeares were almoſt complete, and run out, the *Hamburgers* ſignified to the M. M. Adventurers, that the time of their Priviledges expired, and that by a Decree of the *Hanſe* Townes made at *Lubeke*, they were enioyned, not to graunt to the ſaid Adventurers any longer priviledges, pretendinge the cauſe to bee, for that in Englande the ſaide *Hanſes* were reſtrayned of their auncient liberties, and that daily new exactions were impoſed vpon their goods, contrarie to former treaties, which done the ſaid *Hamburgers* paſſed a decree the 20th of Iune 1578. whereby they abrogated all former liberties graunted to the ſaid Adventurers, and ordained, that after a prefixed day ſett downe in the ſaide Decree, they ſhould not enioye anie other priviledge, or immunitie, then anie other ſtraungers in the ſaid Cittie: which aſſoone as her Maieſtie, and her honorable Counſeill vnderſtood, they requited the *Hanſes* with a like Decree, which yet was ſuſpended till the 25th of Iulie 1579. at which tyme her Maieſtie, not receyuinge any ſatisfaction at the *Hanſes* handes, but to the contrarie vnderſtanding, that the ſaide *Hanſes*, at an Aſſemblie at *Lunenburghe*, the ſecond of Nouember 1579. had ſett foorth an Edicte for the leuying of 7 ½ vpon the hundred of all goods

brought by Engliſhe men into their territories, or caryed out of the ſame, her highenes vpon this occaſion commaunded the like decree to bee made, for the taking of the like ſumme vpon the goods of the *Hanſes*: and in this eſtate the matter ſtood on both partes, till that by a petition put vp by the Alderman of the Steelyarde, this laſt decree of 7½. vpon the hundred was ſuſpended for four monthes, but the firſt, becauſe it depended vpon the reſtraint of Trade of her Maieſties ſubiectes, the Lordes of the Counſeill thought not good to ſuſpend, or reuoke the ſame, till the contentes thereof were ſatiſfied, and fulfilled: And thus I haue briefly, & truely ſett down what hath paſſed, and in what ſtate at this daye the whole controuerſie betweene her Maieſtie, and the *Hanſes* ſtandeth: by the diſcourſe whereof I doubt not, but it plainly appeareth, that (as aforeſaid) the *Hanſes* haue no iuſt, or lawfull cauſe to complain, for that they haue themſelues beene the cauſe of all that happened: For firſt, the reſuminge of their Priuiledges in Kinge *Edwardes* dayes, proceeded of this, that they freed, & coloured mens goodes, that were none of their Societie, and for other cauſes aboue rehearſed. Secondlie, when as Queene *Marie* had reuoked that, which had been done by her Brother, ſhee her ſelfe at length revoked the ſaid Revocation, for that the *Hanſes* had broken promiſe with her, in continuing an vnlawfull trade in the low Couutries, whereby ſhee loſt in her Cuſtomes within the ſpace of eleuen monethes, more then 9360 pounde ſterling

The Hanſes themſelues are the cauſe of the reſtraint of their Priuileges in England.

ling, beſides the damage ſuſtained by her ſubiectes in their trade, and when as ſhee offred a meetinge for the deciding of all cõtrouerſies, the *Hanſes* vtterlie refuſed the ſame, & would none of it. Thirdly, her Maieſtie that now is, whẽ ſhee came firſt to the Crown, commaunded, that the *Hanſes* ſhould be vſed, as well (yea in ſome pointes better) then her owne ſubiects, but they in recompẽce of this fauour, not prouoked with anie new occaſion, commaunded, that the exerciſe & trade of Merchandiſe graunted to her Highnes ſubiectes by the *Hamburgers*, *cum clauſula perpetuitatis* ſhould be broken of, and diſannulled: and afterwardes, when her Maieſtie required a reformation of this their Decree, they in ſteede thereof impoſed that exaction of theirs of ſeuen & three quarters vpõ the hundred: And ſo with their new Impoſitions, their refuſing of a meeting, & cõference in England, their abuſing of their libertie in the lowe Countries, by doeing manie things to the preiudice of her Maieſtie, and ſubiectes, by diminiſhinge the reuenewes of the Crown, by colouring other mens goodes vnder the pretence of their Priviledges, they were finallie depriued of their liberties, & immunities at the pleaſure of her Highnes, yet alwayes were more friendly vſed, then anie other the ſubiectes of the Princes in Amitie, and league with her Maieſtie, for the which they neuer ſhewed any ſparke of thankefulnes, but haue from time to time vniuſtlie accuſed her Highnes to foreigne Princes, and States, her Maieſties loving friendes, and Confederates, and to this

day with much clamorouſnes& importunacie leaue not off to doe the ſame, without reſpect to the perſon,and qualitie, of ſo excellent and gracious a Princeſſe, and doeing that, which is farre vnbeſeeminge their ſtate and condition, but if they thinke to gett anie thing hereby in the ende, they are much deceyued in mine opinion, their way to ſpeede is, to proceede *cum precatione & ſupplicatione*, and not by way of force,and compulſion: *Magnorum ſiquidem Principum & Regum heroicis animis natura videtur inſitum, quod flecti,& duci,non cogi velint.*

Defence of the M. M. Adventurers againſt the Hanſes ſlaūder of Monopolie.

The third cauſe wherevpon the foreſaid Mandate of the Emperours is grounded,is, *The Monopolie vſed* (as is ſaide) *by the Merchauntes Adventurers:* which to be a falſe,and iniurious ſlaunder,& ſurmize,needeth none other demonſtration, then the true ſence,and definition of the woorde *Monopolie* it ſelfe: *Quum Monopolium ſit quando vnus ſolus aliquod genus mercaturæ vniuerſum emit, vt ſolus ſuo arbitrio vendat: Monopolie* is, when one man alone buyeth vp all that is to bee gott of one kinde of Merchandiſe, to the end that he alone may ſell at his owne luſt and pleaſure. Which well conſidered, hath no communion,or agreement with the trade, and practiſe of the Companie of M. M. Adventurers, and the Townes where the ſaide companie haue reſided,or are reſident in at this day, doe knowe,and can witneſſe, that thoſe of the ſaide Companie haue vſed, & doe vſe an honeſt, vpright, and lawfull trade *Emptionis, Venditionis,& Permutationis:*

nis: which by all lawe is permitted, *vita enim nostra sine contractibus, & commercijs, subsistere nequit*, not onlie with Clothe, but also with all kinde of wares, and Merchandises, So that, what soeuer is free, and at libertie to buye, & sell, the same by no reason, or right construction can be accompted a *Monopolie*: neither haue the Adventurers the sole transporte, and trade inwardes, and outwardes of Englishe Clothe, and other Wares, but it is well knowen, and notorious, that all the Members of the *Hanses*, & not onely they, but also all the subiectes of Vpper, and low Germanie, and all other straungers in league, & amitie with the Crowne of England, may, and doe at their libertie and pleasure, buye, and cary out of the Realme al sortes of Clothe, and Englishe wares, and may, and doe bring in, and sell their own countrie commodities without empeachment, or hinderance, payinge such dewties, and customes, as they ought to paye: besides there are diuerse other Companies of Merchauntes, who are priviledged to transporte Cloth, &c. out of the lande into foreigne partes, and Cuntries, as well as the Companie of M. M. Adventurers, which they doe in great quantitie: Moreouer, the Companie of M. M. Adventurers hath no banke, nor common stocke, nor common Factour to buye, or sell for the whole Companie, but euery man tradeth a-part, and particularlie with his owne stocke, and with his owne Factour, or servaunt: wherevpon it necessarilie followeth, that forasmuch, as the M. M. Adventurers haue not (as aforesaid) the sole dealing,

ling, and traffike alone in their own hands, either in Englande, or on the other ſide the ſeas, and that *Monopolij definitio cum ſuo definito* in the leaſt parte agreeth not, the ſaid companie by no ſound reaſon, or argument can be charged to bee anie ſuch Monopoliers, or priuate gaine, & lucre ſeekers, as the *Hanſes* would make the world beleeue they are, neither is it to bee thought, that by the ſaide M. M. Adventurers the ſaide *Hanſes* are brought to ſuch apparaunt loſſe, and hinderaunce, as by their complaintes they beare the Emperour, and States of the Empire in hand. Concerning that, which they alleadge, that the ſaid companie haue their Gouuernement, and officers, keepe Courtes, and Aſſemblies, make lawes, impoſe mulctes and penalties, and ſhippe at ſett tymes, & with appointed Fleetes, out of which they would inferre a Monopolie: It needeth none other aunſwear, then I haue alreadie made in this treatiſe, wherein is truelie, and plainly declared the practiſe, and manner of the Companie of Merchants Aduenturers in all the aboueſaide pointes, and withall ſhewed the good, that commeth to the State, and common Wealth thereby, and howe farre it is out of the compaſſe of *Monopolie:* A fault not only forbidden, but alſo worthilie to be puniſhed in all well gouerned common wealthes, *Imò honeſtorum Principum ſubditis indignum:* Beſides, it is more then ſtraunge, that the *Hanſes* haue the face to condemne that in others, as vnlawful, and Monopoliſh, which them ſelues both in Englande, and euery where elſe, where they now haue, or haue had

had their Reſidence, or Counters continually practiſed: for who knoweth not, that they had their Aldermen, or Conſuls, Treaſurers, Secretaries, Aſſiſtentes, and other officers, and kept their meetinges, Courtes, and Aſſemblies, and vſed Merchantes law among them ſelues? And if it were lawfull, and free for them ſo to doe, why may it not be as lawfull, and free for the M. M. Adventurers to doe the like? But (ſay the Hanſes) the Merchants Aduenturers in their Courtes doe ſett the prices of their own Wares, and of other mens, ordayning not to ſell, or buye otherwiſe, or at other rates, or prices, which is plaine *Monopolie*, this how true it is, I appeale to the conſciences of the verie *Hanſes* them ſelues, and of all other Merchauntes, with whom the ſaide Companie doe deale, whether this be a trueth yea, or no: Beſides, I may boldlie, & with a good conſcience affirme, that neither I in all the time of my ſeruice, neither the oldeſt man living in the ſaide Companie, can ſaye, that euer it was knowen, or heard, that any ſuch matter of ſetting pryce was once mentioned in any Court, or aſſemblie of the ſaid Companie: neither in deed was there euer any ſuch matter, but euery mā rather ſtudyeth to keepe his feat and trade as ſecrete to him ſelfe as he can, for feare of his fellow, leaſt being eſpied, it might be taken out of his handes: and further, it is a thing abhorred, and condemned by the lawes of the Realme, and therefore, if the Companie of M. M. Adventurers could euer haue been iuſtlie accuſed of the ſaid cryme, they ſhould not haue eſcaped

ſo longe without deſerued puniſhment: laſtlie, the verie ſtate, and policie of the ſaid Companie, cannot abide, or brooke anie Monopolie, as being directlie, & *ex diametro*, contrarie, and an ouerthrowe to that *Oeconomie*: ſo carefullie prouided for, and preſerued by the good lawes, & orders of the ſaid Companie: whereby there is a diſtribution of the benefites, and commodities of the Companie to all the members of the ſame, ſo much, as is poſſible with great prouidence, and equitie ordained, ſo that euery man, that will, or is able, may participate thereof, ſo farre, as they will extende: Whereas if it were otherwiſe, the meaner ſort ſhould not be able to liue by the richer: for theſe in ſhort tyme would with their great purſes and meanes drawe all the trade inwardes, and outwardes into their own handes, and (as vpon the Bankers in ſome places) all mens credites ſhould depend vpon their ſleeues, as hauing power to giue credite to whom they liſt, to ſell, or keepe vp their wares, at their pleaſure, & to rule the markettes, as they thinke good: whereby it would come to paſſe, that a fewe ſhall gaine, and growe mightie, and exceeding wealthie, and all the reſt ſhall haue nothing to doe, and in ſhort time be brought to extreeme miſerie, and pouertie: but the gouerned trade of the ſaide Companie is heere in the way, ſo that you ſee how farre it is from trueth, or likelihood of trueth, which is obiected againſt the Companie of M. M. Adventurers on this behalfe, as beeing rather an vtter enemie, then a freend, or liker of that greedie, & inordinate courſe:

as

as appeareth partlie by that abouesaide, and more euidently as well by the testimonie of straungers of diuerse Nations, as also by Attestations, vnder the seales of great and famous Citties (whereof some are of the *Hauses* them selues) which I haue sett downe, not onely for the credite, commendation, and iustifying of the saide Cõpanie, but withall for the more manifestation of the trueth of that, which hath been abouesaide. And first, the Senate of *Hambrough*, at such tyme, as they caused to bee denounced to the Companie the expiration of their Priviledges, did in their Insinuation the nineteenth of Iuly 1577. expreslie put these wordes: *Quæ quidem Denunciatio non eo animo fit, quod Societas Mercatorum, quæ se honestè in hac Ciuitate gesit, & integritate sua bonorum virorum beneuolentiam meretur, Senatui nostro molesta, & grauis sit, verum solummodò, vt pactis satisfiat:* And afterwardes, *Etenim si inclita Societas Mercatorum florentissimi Regni Angliæ diutiùs in hac Ciuitate commorari, mercaturam exercere, & hoc nomine noua pacta posteaquam priora expirarunt cum spectabili Senatu inire in animo habeat, Senatus officio suo, & æquitati non deerit.* Whereby it appeareth in what estimation the said Senate held the Companie of Merchantes Adventurers, in that they not onlie commended them for their honest cariage, and integritie, but also offer them further fauour, and entertainement in their Cittie after the ending of the former priviledges, which were agreed vpon but for ten yeares, yet with this Addition, *Quod elapsis supradictis annis concessio dictorum Priuilegiorum renouaretur,*

Testimonie of straungers and whole Citties on the Companies behalf against the slaunder of Monopolie.

& continuaretur in infinitum, ſi interim non caderet in Ciuitatis ſuæ damnum, vel diſpendium: Now that the ſaid Cittie receiued neither loſſe nor damage by the Cõpanie of Merchauntes Adventurers, the aboue written woordes of honeſt cariage, and integritie, proceeding from the Magiſtrates themſelues in the ſame Cittie doe ſufficientlie beare witnes, and ſince that time alſo more particularlie the ſaide Senate of *Hambroughe* doeth touche that point of *Monopolie* in a letter written to the Gouernour and Generalitie of the ſaid Companie in Auguſt 1586. wherein they ſay, that although they cannot denie, but that there were complaintes made vnder that name of *Monopolie* to the Emperour, and Princes Electours, *tamen noſtra cum ſuffragatione, & approbatione eaſdem inſtitutas eſſe cõſtanter negamus: Ideoq́, quum hæ Actiones ex aliorum potiùs ſuffragijs, quàm ex noſtra voluntate, & arbitrio dependeant, non dubitamus, Magnificentias, & Dominationes veſtras diuerſorum diſcrepantes intentiones, & ſententias maturiore iudicio diſcuſſuros:* ſo that in this point a man may ſee they agreed not with the reſt of their fellowes, whoſe doeinges they diſclaime as hauing no voice or allowance of theirs. Likewiſe the late Lord *Egdard*, Earle of *Eaſt-friſelande* in a letter by him written in aunſweare of a Mandate from the Emperour, the 26th of Iuly 1580. concerning the aboueſaide ſlaunder of *Monopolie*, and Monopoliſhe trade vſed in *Embden* by the Engliſh, hath theſe woordes: *Now what ſoeuer is free to all men, and forbidden to none, & when as this tẽdeth not to the priuate commoditie of one, or of ſome*

few

few ſingulare perſons, nor goeth vpon anie one ſorte of Wares (as hee had ſhewed that the Trade of the M.M. Adventurers did not) *whether this be a Monopolie, or Monopoliſh trade, that referre I moſt humbly to your Maieſties conſideration, beſides the Title of Monopolies in the lawe declareth, whether it be ſo yea, or no: it was therefore neuer my meaning, or thought to graunt vnto the Engliſh, or anie other ſuch Monopoliſh trade, but ſuch, as the law permitteth to all men: And in verie deede there is no ſuch Monopoliſhe trade vſed at Embden, and I therein referre my ſelfe to anie iuſt proofe, and all both ſtraungers, and others, which vnderſtande theſe doeinges, can heerein witnes the ſame with mee:* This teſtimonie of the Earles, the Senat of the town of *Embden*, confirmed by an Atteſtation vnder their common ſeale, bearing date the 28 th of Iuly 1582. the true copie whereof, & of other the like vnder the ſeales of the Cities of *Antwerpe*, *Middelburgh*, and *Stade*, I haue ſett downe at the ende of this Treatiſe, whereby I doubt not, but al the world may perceiue that the Imputation of *Monopolie* to the Companie of M.M. Adventurers, is but a malicious, iniurious, and altogether falſe ſlaunder, deuized by the *Hanſes*, (as I ſaide before) to drawe the Emperour, and Princes of Germanie, to aſſiſt them in the obtayninge of their vniuſt pretences, and vnreaſonable demaundes in England, to the diſhonor of her Maieſtie, and hurt of the whole State, as much as in them lyeth, which God defend that they ſhould haue their willes in.

Laſtlie, to knitt vp this point, I will adde herevnto as a golden *Coronis* of all that hath been ſaide, the iudg-

Her Maiestie cleareth the M. M. Adventurers, of Monopolie.

ment of her Highnes our most gracious Soueraigne, and the true defence of the saide Companie in certaine her Maiesties letters to the Emperour, and diuerse of the Princes of Germanie: and namelie in one to the Emperour written in Nouember 1595. the eight of the said Moneth, in these woordes: *Monopolium porrò de quo Hanseatici subditos nostros criminãtur, calumniæ potius, quam veræ accusationis rationem præ se ferre videtur, ab ipsis enim Imperij subditis, qui Londini residēt, diligenter inquiri iussimus, si quid solidi de iniquis subditorum nostrorum negotiandi rationibus referre possent: illi verò ingenuè respondērunt, se nihil ea de re in commissis habere, actūros tamen se quamprimum per literas cum suis Maioribus, quumq; demùm quid responsi acciperent, id totum fideliter relaturos: quæstionem præterea ea de re cum subditis nostris institui mandauimus, Illi verò authenticis scriptis edocent, negotiandi ipsorum rationes à plurimis Ciuitatibus in Belgio, Prussia, atque alibi vti honestissimas probari, atque quum duæ Imperij Ciuitates sint, quæ eum nostris maximè negotiantur, Lubeca, & Hāburgum, illarum altera publicis literis, vt nostri ostendunt, testata est, ipsorum Negotiationem ab omni Monopolij suspicione vacuā esse, seq; illius obiectæ criminationis participes nunquam fuisse: vbi verò Hanseaticorū institores plura ea de re ex Dominorum suorum expectata in scriptis cōmissione opposuerint, se quoq; pluribus in scriptis responsuros humiliter obtulerunt.* This whole letter, for that it conteyneth matter woorthie the knowledge concerning the *Hanses*, I haue added vnto the ende of this Treatie: Her saidMaiestie in an other letter to the Emperour, dated the 20th of December

cember 1597. sent by Maister *Iohn Wrothe*, after her Highnes had complayned of the vnorderlie settinge foorth &publishing of the Emperors Mãdate for the reasons in the said letter at large set down, hath these words following: *Quæ si paulò attentiùs Maiestas vestra ratione animoq; ponderasset, & ea quæ literis nostris anno 1595mo. mensęq; Nouembri conscriptis sunt comprehensa collatione cum vestris literis mense Iulij facta, diligentius considerasset (de quibus literis vel factiosorum hominũ machinationibus vos cælatos esse, vel à quibusdam ex ijs qui vestræ Maiestati sunt à Consilijs non optima fide vobiscum actũ esse magnopere suspicamur) nobis certè persuasissimum est, vos hanc rationem tam iniquam Edicti contra nos, subditosq; nostros vestro Imperio haudquaquam subiectos, promulgandi nunquam fuisse suscepturos, sed potius repudiaturos has commentitias Hanseaticorum querelas: quibus quidam præter eorum merita par, atque eadem libertas in Mercaturis apud nos faciendis, quæ nostris hominibus conceditur, oblata est: denique facturos fuisse, vt actiones nostræ remotis partium studijs, fictisq; delationibus ad rationis normam & æquitatis, ac iustitiæ ponderibus examinaretur.*

And in letters at the same tyme written to the Princes of Germanie, and sent by the said Maister *Wroth*, & Mr *Stephen Lesure*, to wit, to the Administratour of *Saxonie*, to the *Palsgraue* vpon the Rhine, the Elector of *Mentz*, and diuerse others, her Maiestie writeth in these woordes: *Eodem porrò Edicto nonnulla in priscam quandam subditorum nostrorũ Societatem (quam Adventurariorum vocant) obiecta commemorãtur, atque ex ijsdem proscriptionis veluti sententia infertur, qua & ex Imperij finibus*

nibus discedere, atque ab omni intra eosdem emendi ac vendendi vsu abstinere iubentur: quæ quidem res admiratione digna videtur, maximè quũ literis nostris ad Imperatorem mense Nouembri, anno 1595. à Comitijs quæ Ratisbonæ nonagesimo quarto habebantur datis ad singula Edicto hoc repetita abundè responsum, ac firmissimis rerum momentis satisfactum fuerit, quo sanè credendum nobis erat Cæsaream Maiestatem biennium penè silentio interposito rationibus à nobis allatis acquieuisse. Quod si quid adhuc dubij superesse visum fuisset, & Iustitia, & Regiæ nostræ dignitatis ratio, quam sub diuino numine absolutam gerimus, pro amicitia saltem nostra quàm sanctè hactenus cum Imperio coluimus, aut per literas, aut per internuncium aliquem nobis exponendum illud postulasset: Nunc verò hunc in modum sub silentio ex improuiso, etiam Typis exposuisse quæ ad nostram iniuriam (ipsa quoque in subditos nostros Iustitia violata) faciunt, indecorum omnino fuisse arbitramur: omniũ enim opinione iniquum meritò habendum viros probos nunquam auditos, aut vocatos ex maleuolorum obiectis calumnijs, nec probatis, & ne quidem ritè examinatis proscriptionis sententia, etiam contra ipsam sacri Imperij libertatem mulctasse.

Thus you see what the opinion of her Maiestie and of others hath been of the Companie of M. M. Adventurers touching *Monopolie*, whereof they are slaũdred by the *Hanses*, whiche I doubt not is sufficient, though not possible to stoppe the mouthes of the said *Hanses*, yet to convince them of vntrueth, & malicious forgerie on that behalfe.

That

That the Maintenance of the Fellowshippe of Marchantes Adventurers hath been and is for the Honour and seruice of the Prince and State at home and abroad.

ALl that which hath been afore at large sett down, tendeth in effect to the proofe of this point, as if it would please the diligent Reader to remember the same, & lay it together, would be soone perceyued. For whereas I haue said, and shewed that the Merchauntes Adventurers, as subiectes of this noble Realme, haue procured at the handes of foreigne Princes and States many ample, and beneficiall Iurisdictions, Priviledges, Liberties, exemptions, & immunities, by vertue whereof they haue erected a good, and cõvenient gouvernement, for the rule, and ordering of them selues, and their Trade, and exercise ciuile Iurisdiction beyonde the Seas: that the saide M.M. Adventurers are a meanes of the preseruation of the Amitie, & league betwene this lande, and the said foreigne Princes, and States, that they advaunce the pryce, and vent of our countrie commodities, and bring in foreigne wares good cheape, that they are a maintenaunce of the Navigation,

-tion, and encreaſe of the Cuſtomes at home, who ſeeth not, and confeſſeth that all theſe thinges are to the high honour of the Prince, and notable ſeruice of the State and Common Wealth? Beſides all this, ſome of the Princes of this lande haue knowen ſo well, howe to vſe this Companie, and to make their vttermoſt benefite of them, that beſides that the ſaid Companie haue at ſundrie times vpon vrgent occaſions giuen their credites for the loanes of great ſummes of monie beyond the ſeas, for the ſeruice of the State, diuerſe of the Gouuernours, and others of the ſaid Cõpanie, haue in particulare not been wanting, according to their dewtie, to doe their Prince good, and commendable ſeruice many times in the affaires of the State. Further at the change of Princes, and receyuing in of new, at triumphes for victories, and Coronations, the ſaid Companie haue not forgott the honour of their Prince, and Cuntrie, but haue ſpent and laid out great ſummes of monie this way, ſo that at ſome one Princes receyuing in, they haue conſumed aboue twoo thouſande Frenche Crownes in ſhewe or triumphal Arches, and namelie of the late King *Philippe* of *Spaine*, at his entrie into the Cittie of *Antwerpe* in September 1549. at ſuch tyme, as his Father the Emperour *Charles* the fifth, transferred vnto him all his Seignories, and States in the low Countries: beſides that Maiſter *Iohn Sturgeon* at that tyme Gouuernour of the Companie was at the receyuing in of the ſaid Prince accompanied with thirtie Merchantes of the Companie on horſe-

back

back all in a liuerie of Purple veluit in grain coates, and paned hoſe embrodered full of ſiluer waues, like the waues of the ſea: their Dublettes, and drawinge out of their hoſe purple ſattin, their Hattes of purple veluit with golde bandes, faire brouches, and white feathers: and each of them a chain of golde about his neck of great valew: buſkins of purple velvitt, their Rapiers, Daggers, Spurres, Stirropps, & Bridles all gilt: the furniture of their horſes was of purple veluit, Sadles, and Trappinges, &c. embrodered with golde, and green ſilke, and white, and green feathers on their horſe heades: they were attended with three ſkore Lackies, apparailed in white veluitt ierkins cutt, embrodered with ſiluer twiſt, green ſattin dublettes, with hoſe, and buſkins of the ſame, purple veluitt Cappes, and green Feathers: behinde them roade the aboueſaid Gouernour vpon a white Engliſh gelding, in a longe purple veluit growne, lyned with purple ſattin: a black velvitt coat, and cappe with a fair brouche therein, and a chain of golde about his neck: his Dublett, and Hoſe, with the trappinges of his Horſe were, as the other of his Companie wore, he was attended on by ſix Lackies on foot, and three Pages on horſeback apparailed as aforeſaid: In which their doeing, they ſhewed themſelues for the honour of their Prince, and Cuntrye nothing inferiour to the Merchantes of other nations, namely the Germanes, Eaſterlinges, Italians, Spaniardes and Portugalles, and ſurmounting ſome of them in coſtly apparaile, furniture of themſelues

and their horſes, and in other preparation, to entertaine the ſaid Prince, whereby they wanne great honour, and commendation to themſelues, and the whole Engliſhe name: to ſay nothinge of the late Duke of *Alanſons* entertainment into the ſaid cittie of *Antwerp* in the yeare 1581. at which time Maiſter *Chriſtopher Hoddeſdonne* then, and nowe Gouernour receiued the ſaide Duke with four ſkore Merchantes of the ſaide Companie, all on horſeback in very ſeemly, and decent ſorte, apparailed in blacke veluitt, and moſt of them with chains of golde about their neckes, for the which the ſaide Gouernour and Companie receiued thankes, and commendation from her Maieſtie, and the Lordes of the Counceill, whereof ſome were beholders of that abouesaid, and made honorable reporte thereof vnto her Highenes at their returne home. In deedes of Pietie, and Charitie they haue not alſo been wanting, as well appeared by the foundinge of Chappelles in olde time at *Brigdes*, and *Middelbrough*, and ſince in mainteyning the exerciſe of Religion amongſt them in all the places of their reſidence hetherto, yea euen amonge thoſe, who could not well away with the ſame: as alſo by their Chriſtianlike care, and prouiſion for the poore, the comfort whereof many a diſtreſſed perſone, ſouldiers, and mariners, &c. of our Nation haue found, and daily finde: beſides their liberalitie is knowen to a great manie, who heretofore haue taſted the ſame, eſpecially thoſe, who haue, and doe receiue yearely pentions from them, partely in remem-

membrance, and gratification of paſſed ſeruice, and partlie for their better relief, maintenance, & ſuſtentation in their olde dayes as alſo in learning and otherwiſe: herevnto may be added the great, and continuall charges, which from time to time they haue been at, and ſtill are in theſe troubleſome tymes, through the manifolde diſturbance, remoouing, and alteration of the Trade about the procuring of new Priuiledges, and reſidence for the better vent, and vtteraunce of the Commodities of the Realme, and maintenaunce of the Commerce, and trafficque in foreigne partes: And when for the defence of the Realme, ſhippes haue been to bee made out, it hath coſt them notable ſummes of money, as by their accomptes thereof doeth appeare: all which could not haue been done, but by men vnited into a Societie, or Companie, as would bee too too evident if once all were ſett at libertie, as ſome would haue it: for thē it would in few yeares come to paſſe, that we ſhould neither haue priviledge, nor iuriſdiction abroad, the freendſhippe, and kinde vſage of our neighbours would waxe colde, and faint, yea we ſhould goe to the walles, bee wronged, and exacted vpon euerie where, our Countrie commodities would growe vile, or come into the handes, & managing of ſtraūgers, at whoſe courteſie alſo, or at leaſt of a few Cormorantes of our owne Nation, we ſhould ſtande for that wee haue neede of from abroade: by meanes whereof, the incomes, and Cuſtomes of the Prince, would be ſore diminiſhed, and the Nauigation de-

cayed: and laſtlie, if there were occaſion either at home of anie thing of importance to be done on the ſuddaine for the defence of the Realme, the extraordinarie helpe of the M. M. Adventurers would bee wanting, and in foreigne partes, if there were neede, either of money, or other prouiſion for the ſeruice of the Prince, and State, no man would bee founde, and ſo neither credite, nor meanes would be founde or had to ſerue the turne with all, neither any man to doe anie thinge for the honour of the Prince, and Countrie, howſoeuer neceſſarie, or vrgent the occaſion may be, either generall, or particular: all which I doubt not will be well conſidered of, and waighed by her Excellent Maieſtie, and thoſe whiche vnder her Highnes haue the ordering, and gouuernement of the affaires, and ſtate of this noble Realme, that ſo the common wealth may proſper, & encreaſe in honour, and flouriſhing eſtate, & that thoſe, which trauaile, and take paines to this ende, and haue from tyme to tyme been found profitable members, may be cheriſhed, and mainteyned in their well doeinge, and encouraged to proceede, by vouchſaufing them gracious countenance, and favourable ayde, and aſſiſtance in their cauſes, and by vpholding them in the full and quiet fruition, and vſe of their Priviledges, Charters, and Rightes giuen heeretofore with ſo good conſideration, and hetherto continued, to the high Honour of her Maieſtie, and the generall good of this Realme, as I hope in this treatiſe to haue plainlie, and euidentlie prooued, to the reaſonable

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ſatisfaction of all that loue not nouelties, or haue no outlandiſhe appetites: eſpeciallie of thoſe in honorable, and eminent place, for whoſe informatiō principallie I vndertooke this labour, humbly prayinge that it may be well accepted, and bring foorth ſuch good, as is thereby meant vnto her Roiall Maieſtie, and the whole lande, with all the members thereof, the continuall happines, and proſperitie wherof the Almightie graunt, by whom Princes raigne, & without whom nothing is happie, or perdurable. And you true hearted Merchantes Adventurers, for whoſe ſake I haue written this treatiſe, faint not in your orderlie, and hetherto wel continued courſe vnder the fauour, and protection of ſo gracious and excellent a Princeſſe, which you haue oftentimes proued, and ſeene, and bythe ayd and Direction of ſo Honourable, and Wiſe a Counceill, as that of her Maieſties, of whom you may be well aſſured, to receyue all neceſſarie, and reaſonable aſſiſtance in your honeſt, and commendable exerciſe, and feat of Merchaundiſe, mainteyne the credite and honour which you haue gotten abroade, continew in well doeing, keepe you to your auncient orders, and *Policie*: Preſerue vnion and concorde amongeſt you diligentlie and carefullie, *& valeant qui diſsidium inter vos volunt*, note them notwithſtanding, and looke vnto them betymes, for there are daungerous perſons, louers of them ſelues, and enemies to your good, and the well fare of your Societie, wherein they, and the *Hanſes* iumpe together and agree: for neither the one, nor the other

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would haue you to be a Cõpanie, for that is in their way, and reſtrayneth the ones inordinate gourmandiſe, and thirſt after private lucre, onely regardinge the tyme preſent, and nothing at all the poſteritie, (which is a peſtilent & pernicious humor in al common wealthes) and keepeth the other from praying vpon the common wealth of this Realme,& hauing their will of the ſtate: as for the ſaide *Hanſes* ſlaunderous complaintes,and accuſations of *Monopolie* forged without groũd of trueth, it ſhalbe for your credite to aunſweare, where they ſhalbe aſhamed of their doeinges, and at length bluſhe, *vendere tam vanos circum Palatia fumos* : which you may eaſilie doe, and without anie great charge : And for the *Hanſes* them ſelues, neither they, nor their meanes are ſo great, that the State need greatlie to feare them, for if we will but conſider the cauſes,that made them of eſtimation, and accompt in olde time, namely, the multitude of their ſhippinge, and ſea trade whereby they ſtored all Countries with the Eaſterne commodities, and ſerued Princes turnes in tyme of warre,& of vſe of ſhipping : wee ſhall finde that they haue in a manner loſt both the one, and the other long agoe in compariſon of that it hath been,and is now at this day with them : And if her Maieſtie ſhould forbidd all trade into Spaine after the example of other Princes, they would in ſhort time be quitt of the reſt: for that trade is their chiefeſt ſupport at this inſtant, and might be taken frõ them : if it ſo were thought meet vnto her Highenes, and the Lords,and others of her

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Honorable Councell: Beſides of the twoo and ſeauentie confederate *Hanſe* Townes, ſo much ſpoken, and vaunted of, what remayneth almoſt, but the reporte, and thoſe which remayne, & appeare by their Deputies whē there is anie aſſemblie, are they of one minde? or are they able, but with much adoe, to bring vp the charges and contributions neceſſarie, & incident for the defence, and maintenaunce of their league, Priviledges, and trade in foreigne partes, and at home? ſurely no: ſo that it appeareth, that they are not the men they haue been, and therefore although their ſtomackes, & malice no doubt be bigge enough, yet we need not much to regard, what they can doe, for moſt of their teeth are out, & the remayner are but looſe, and ſcattered: much better therefore were it for them, to ſeek the recouery of her Maieſties fauour, and grace by ſome other more decent courſe, and meanes, then they haue of late practiſed, *Precatio & ſupplicatio* were fitter for them, and would become them better, as I ſaid before, let them remēber the difficulties, which ſome of the *Hanſe* townes are alreadie brought into by their neighbor Princes, & what yet hāgeth ouer ſome other of their heades, for the preuenting or remoouing of the like, wherof the verie opinion of the good will, and friendſhippe of her Highenes would not bee a little auailable, and may profite much heereafter: Wherefore like wiſe men, knowing their fault, and errour, let them ſhape another courſe, for this, whiche they hetherto haue runne will not bringe them there where they would

faigne be: And when all is done, and that they haue ſpent their monie, and wearied the world with their importunate complaintes, and out-cryes, doe they thinke that they ſhal recouer their priviledges in Englande by forcing her Maieſtie, or the State? I ſuppoſe they are not ſo ſenſeles: As for the trade in Clothe out of England, which they ſo much contend for, I am of opinion if the matter were well examined, that the ryotouſnes, and vnfaithfull dealing of their ſeruauntes, and factours, the advēture of the ſea, and charges, when they ſhipped, and helde the Steelyarde at London cōſidered, they did more profite by buyeing of the M. M. Adventurers at *Embden*, and *Hambourgh*, eſpeciallie the Merchauntes of *Hambourough*, then by fetching of Clothe them ſelues out of Englande: But let that bee, as it may bee, I muſt confeſſe, that the auncient freendſhipp, & Cōmerce betweene the Realme of Englande, and the *Hanſes* (howſoeuer they bee now decayed) ought not altogither to be forgotten, that ſo by ſome good, and indifferent meanes and agreement the Trade, & Amitie betweene the two moſt noble Dutche, and Engliſh Nations might be made firme, and ſtable, and the auncient, and friendlie neighbourhoode confirmed againſt all humane Chaunges, and Chaunces, which are vncertaine, and variable: yet ſo, that ſtraūgers be not preferred before the Naturall borne ſubiecte, who at all times is, and muſt be readie to ſerue his Prince, and Countrey with his perſon, & goodes at home, and abroad, when the ſtraungers, & ſtraung

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helpe wilbe farre off, and to ſeeke: And therfore the demaund of the *Hanſes* in this behalfe is very abſurd, and vnreaſonable, *Nam ſitientibus noſtris agris alienos irrigare, ſtultum eſſe Leges ducunt, & ordinatam Charitatem incipere à ſeipſo, etiã Theologi admittunt:* wherewith I will conclude this *Treatiſe*, hopinge that therein I haue ſufficientlie declared, and made knowen that, which I tooke vpon me at the beginninge, namelie, *The Commodities of a well ordered Trade*, ſuch as I doubt not, I haue proued that of the Societie, or Cõpanie of M.M. Adventurers to bee, and the *Neceſſarines of the ſaid Societie* in this floriſhing *State*.

Quem Deus incolumem ſervet, faxitq́, perennem.

That ſo the members, and partes therof may continuallie, and daylie more and more proſper, and growe vp in the fame, to the honour of God, their Prince, and Countrie.

Copie of a letter from her Maiestie in aunswear of a letter receiued from the Emperour in high Dutch, whereof the Mandate maketh mẽtion, but much differing from the contentes of this copie.

ELIZABETHA Dei gratia Angliæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ Regina, fidei defensor, &c. Serenissimo Principi ac Domino Domino RODOLPHO, Romanorũ Electo Imperatori semper Augusto: Regi Hungariæ, Bohemiæ, Dalmatiæ & Slauoniæ: Archiduci Austriæ: Duci Burgundiæ, Styriæ, Carinthiæ & Wirtinbergæ: Comiti Tyrollis, &c. Fratri & Consanguineo nostro charissimo, Salutem rerumq; optatissimarum fœlicissimũ incrementum.

Serenissime Princeps, Frater & Consanguinee charissime, Literæ Serenitatis vestræ decimo quinto Iulij datæ, & illæ quidem Germanicè conscriptæ (quod sanè primo aspectu, cum id genus idiomatis hactenus inter nos haud vsitatum sit, dubitationem an cõmentitiæ essent non leuem ingesit) sub finem Octobris redditæ nobis fuerunt, quas quidem ex subiectã materia ad Hanseaticorum instantiam editas animaduertimus. Illi verò dum absoleta quædam Priuilegia in Regno nostro sibi ipsi vendicare perperam decreuissent Anno octuagesimo secundo in Imperialibus comitijs Augustæ Vindelicorum habitis, Mandatum (vt hisce serenitatis vestræ literis habetur) de communibus Imperij ac Dominiorum nostrorum

ſtrorum commercijs perturbandis extorſerunt: & iam nuper anno nonageſimo quarto in Deputatorum conuentu Ratiſbonæ, de ipſorum damnis Mari per Thalaſſos noſtros (vt queruntur) illatis, deq; Mercatorum noſtrorum in Imperio negotiandi rationibus (quas illi odioſa appellatione Monopolia vocitant) nonnullis allegatis & deductis, Mandati illius Auguſtani vim atque executionem poſtularunt. Hac occaſione ſerenitas veſtra pro mutua Amicitia noſtra (quam amantiſsimæ Sororis affectu libenter amplectimur) ſcribendum hoc tempore duxit; noſq; hiſce ſuis amicè hortatur, vt de eiuſmodi malorum remedijs cogitemus, quibus fine querelis impoſito, omnia in florentiſsimo Amicitiæ ſtatu conſeruentur.

Eo certè animo in ſerenitatem veſtrã totumq; ipſius Imperium ſemper fuimus, vt arctiſsimæ Amicitiæ iura cum eadem perpetuo tueri, atque inuiolatè colere ſtatuerimus; quam quidem animi noſtri propenſionem, vti pro re nata ſæpiùs teſtatiſsimam reddere hactenus ſtuduimus, ita deinceps mutui amoris noſtri officijs nunquam deerimus. Ad Hanſeaticorum querelas quod attinet, communes querelarum rationes ſubire illas neceſſe eſt: vt nempè quà minùs rectè inſtitutæ reperiantur, ſeipſis concidant. Atqui de memoratis Priuilegijs ſæpè iam aliàs reſponſum eſt: illa ipſa ante Inaugurationem noſtram collapſa, atque ex allegatis & probatis publico ac ſummo Regni noſtri Iudicio (à quo nullum Appellationis forum agnoſcitur) penitùs euerſa atque abolita fuiſſe. Nos verò alia nonnulla vt temporum rationes ferebant, aliquamdiu Hanſeaticis cõceſsimus; donec ipſi peculiari ipſorum decreto, ſubditos noſtros tum Hamburgæ cum laude reſidentes, nulla dignitatis nec amitiæ noſtræ ratione habita, nulla ex cauſa,

nobisq; omnino non præmonitis, temerè exturbarent. Post aliquanto cùm à serenitate vestra commẽdatitias in fauorem illorum accepissemus, ad easdem omnino apud nos negotiandi rationes, quibus ipsi nostri subditi vtuntur, illis in gratiam serenitatis vestræ concedendas, satis nos inclinatas sæpè ostendimus; nihil tamen illi eo in genere hactenus à nobis petierunt. Nunc igitur serenitas vestra cui Deus optimus maximus populos subiecit, multo rerum vsu edocta quæ nam sint sceptra tenendi rationes, ipsa secum perpendat, an ijs aures præbendæ sint, qui vetusta priuilegia Iuris ordine semel abiudicata, & iam olim penitus deleta, quæ mutati ab priscis temporum atque hominum mores non ferunt, è cineribus suscitare multa importunitate satagunt? Quis enim esset rerumpub. status, si quæ iam olim iustis de causis antiquata oportuit, ad preces cuiuspiam in vsum denuò reuocarentur? Neque verò alicubi consuetum est, neque ratione vlla ferendum videtur, vt Alienigenæ in earum rerũ vsu quæ Regnorum sunt propriæ, Indigenis præferantur: quin potius singularis beneficij loco ducitur, si pares fiant: id quod nos Ciuitatibus Imperij si quæ petiuissent, iãdudum ob singulare Amicitiæ nostræ studium, benignè concedere statueramus.

Interim verò quibuscunque Imperij subditis, in Dominijs nostris liberè versandi, & more exterorum negotiandi facultatem nunquam negauimus. Domum propriam in Metropoli nostra, vbi suis moribus viuerent, ex gratia illis semper permisimus: ita quidem vt Iure conqueri non possint, se vti denunciatos hostes apud nos habitos vnquam fuisse. Quod vero de damnis acceptis inferunt, ita se habet. Cùm superioribus hisce annis bello Hispanico implicari cœpissemus, more aliorum Principum, bellica qræsidia hostibus interclu-

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denda, quantum in nobis fuerat decreuimus: eaq; de re Vicinas Ciuitates præmonuimus: atque si qui inhibita hoc belli tempore in Hispaniam transportare niterentur, eosdem veluti auxiliatores atque hostium complices, aliqua ex parte habendos, atque inhibitorum confiscatione mulctandos declarauimus: his actis Classiarij nostri in plurimas Hanseaticorum Naues rebus inhibitis onustas inciderunt: Nauibus verò ac Nautis ex indulgentia dimissis, bona tantum inhibita Iure belli ac Regni nostri institutis fisco commiserunt. Quæ quidem illorum Damna, (de alijs enim nihil nobis constat) mulctæ nomine Iure optimo illata nullo æquitatis colore restituenda veniunt.

Monopolium porrò de quo Hanseatici subditos nostros criminantur, calumniæ potiùs quàm veræ accusationis rationem præ se ferre videtur: ab ipsis enim Imperij subditis qui Londini residet, diligenter inquiri iussimus, si quid solidi de iniquis subditorum nostrorum negotiandi rationibus referre possent. Illi verò ingennè responderunt, se nihil ea de re in commissis habere: acturos tamen se quamprimùm per literas cum suis maioribus. Cumq; demum quid responsi acciperent id totum fideliter relaturos. Quæstionem præterea ea de re cum subditis nostris institui mandauimus: illi verò authenticis scriptis edocent, negotiandi ipsorum rationes à plurimis Ciuitatibus in Belgio, Prussia, atque alibi vti honestissimas probari. Atque cùm duæ Imperij Ciuitates sint, quæ cum nostris maximè negotiantur, Lubeca & Hamburgum, illarum altera, publicis literis (vt nostri ostendunt) testata est, ipsorum negotiationem ab omni Monopolij suspicione vacuam esse: seq; illius obiectæ criminationis participem nunquam fuisse: Vbi verò Hanseaticorum Institores, plura

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ea de re ex Dominorum ſuorum expectata commiſsione, in ſcriptis oppoſuerint, ſe quoque pluribus in ſcriptis reſponſuros humiliter obtulerunt.

Ad Auguſtanum denique de cõmercijs inhibendis mandatum quod attinet, non ſatis intelligimus, qua ratione Imperij Principes rectè informati, de priuilegijs aut alijs quibuſcunque ad Iura Regni noſtri, ab Imperij Legibus ſemper abſoluti, pertinentibus, cognitionem ſuſcipere potuerint: neque ſanè videmus quibus documentis eam in ſententiam adduci poſſent, vt commerciorum inhibitionem Imperio, Serenitati veſtræ, ſibi ipſis, aut Imperij Ciuitatibus, vtilem fore arbitrarentur. Quamobrem Mandatum illud vti obreptitiè impetratum, Iure optimo hactenus ſuſpẽſum fuiſſe, ac deinceps ſuſpendendum eſſe meritò exiſtimamus. Interim verò ne quid mutuæ amicitiæ noſtræ deſit, Imperij ſubditos qui in Dominijs noſtris fortè verſabũtur, more ſolito benigna protectione noſtra clementer tuebimur: atque ſi Lubeca, Hamburgum, aut alia ſerenitatis veſtræ Ciuitas, ipſius nomine gratiam à nobis ſubmiſsè poſtulauerint, qua negotiandi rationes maiori ipſorum commodo inſtituendas cupiant, Serenitatis veſtræ commendationem plurimum apud nos momenti habuiſſe facilè intelligent: nos viciſsim amanter petimus, vt parẽ gratiam ſubditis noſtris in ipſius Dominijs clementer impertire ſerenitas veſtra non grauetur. Eidemq; interim fælicia omnia à DEO Optimo Maximo precamur. Datæ è Regia noſtra Richemũdana octauo Nouembris, Anno Domini 1595, Regni vero noſtri xxxvij.

Serenitatis veſtræ Soror & Conſanguinea

ELIZABETHA.

Atteſtation of the Cittie of *Antwerp*, on the Companies of M.M. Adventurers behalfe.

Niuerſis & ſingulis noſtras præſentes literas teſtimoniales viſuris vel audituris, Burgimagiſtri & Scabini Ciuitatis Antuerpienſis in Ducatu Brabãtiæ, ſalutem. Cùm pium ſit ac rationi conſonum Veritati teſtimonium perhibere, præſertim ſi pro conſeruando alterius Iure requiramur, Hinc eſt quod obnixè rogati ex parte Magnificorum Dominorum Gubernatoris, Aſsiſtentiũ, & communium Mercatorum nationis Anglicæ, præſentibus hiſce fidem facimus & atteſtamur dictos Mercatores nationis Anglicæ qui pluribus ab hinc annis in hac noſtra Ciuitate Antuerpienſi reſiderunt & adhuc reſident, honeſtam, licitam, & Reipub. vtilem ſemper exercuiſſe negotiationem, & etiamnum adhuc exercere in emendis, vendendis, & permutandis mercimonijs aliiſq; legitimis Cõtractibus ineundis, neque vllum feciſſe diſcrimen inter Mercatores cum quibus contraherent cuius illi eſſent nationis, dummodo ſoluendo & ſpectatæ fidei forent, quibus interdum præſente, interdum ad tempus credita pecunia Pannos, Carſeas, aliaſq; Merces ſuas promiſcuè ſemper vendidêre, & adhuc vendunt. In quorum fidem haſce literas ſigillo huius Ciuitatis ad cauſas muniri fecimus. Datum die decima nona menſis Aprilis, Anno Domini Milleſimo quingenteſimo octuageſimo ſecundo.

¶ Atteſtation of eight and twentie Merchauntes in *Antwerp* of ſundrie nations concerninge the Companies orderly Trade and clearnes from Monopolie.

VNIVERSIS & ſingulis præſentes literas inſpecturis ſiue audituris, Burgimagiſtri, Scabini & Conſules Ciuitatis Antverpiæ ſalutem, Notum facimus ac harum ſerie teſtamur, Quod die infraſcripto ad inſtantiam magnificorum Dominorum Gubernatoris, Aſsiſtentium & communium Mercatorum nationis Anglicæ in hac Ciuitate reſidentium coram nobis comparuerunt D D. Ludouicus Guicciardini Florētinus, Carolus Lam Franchi, Ioannes Angelus Vergano, Gaſpar Reuelaſco, Lambertus Lamberti, Simon Taſſa, Bartholomeus Luquini, Bartholomeus Balbi, natione Itali, Domini Iacobus de Pardo, Petrus de la Pena Hiſpani, Domini Ferdinandus Ximenes, Rodrigo de Vega, Ludouicus Ferdinandes, Simon Rodrigues Portugallenſes ſiue Luſitani, D D. Ioannes Putz, Iacobus Lange, Ieremias Gennis Germani, Domini Theodoricus de Moy, Ludouicus de Becque, Iacobus van Teweruen, Gualterus Schot, Henricus Moons, Daniel de Lommel, Arnoldus Boudewijns, Nicolaus Rampart, Henricus van Homſſen, Ioannes vanden Steene, & Iacobus Schot, Ciues & Incolæ huius Oppidi, omneſq; Mercatores, Burſam eiuſdem Oppidi frequentantes, Viri fide digni, nobiſq; probè cogniti, Qui medijs illorum iu-

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ramentis ſolemniter præſtitis iurauerunt & affirmauerunt primo ad id iuridice citati prædictos Mercatores Nationis Anglicæ, tam in hac Ciuitate Antuerpia, quã alijs locis vbi negotiantur, Iuſtam, licitamq; negotiationem exercuiſſe, & adhuc exercere, neque quantum reſcire potuerunt eoſdem Mercatores profeſsionem feciſſe fœnerãdi vel dandi pecunias ad vſuram aut Monopolijs vſos fuiſſe, verùm è contrario eoſdem ſemper exercuiſſe & indies exercere iuſtam negotiationem, conſiſtentem in emendis, vendendis, & permutandis mercibus alijſque legitimis Contractibus ineundis. Itemq; præfatos Mercatores Anglicos illorum Pannos, Carſeas, aliaſq; merces omnibus & quibuſcunque Nationibus Chriſtiani Orbis ſine diſcrimine vendere, prout etiam dicti Deponẽtes nunquam reſcire potuerunt, quod dicti Mercatores inter ſe aliquas erexerint Ordinationes aut Statuta, quibus ſuis Pannis, Cariſeis, aut alijs mercibus certum præfigant pretium, quo & non minoris diuendi debeant, Quinimo ipſorum negotiationem ſemper fuiſſe & eſſe liberam, Præterea Mercatores Anglicos in hac Ciuitate Antuerpienſi & Embdæ, aut alibi locorum reſidentes pro magna parte diuerſos habere Miniſtros & Inſtitores, & ſeparata Domicilia & Magazena, vt plurimum ſeorſum & ſeparatim negotiando pro lubito alij præſente alij ad tempus credita pecunia, itemque alij maiori, alij minori pretio, vel etiam cõmutatione mercium, & alias, ſine dolo malo, In cuius rei teſtimonium, ſigillum ad cauſas huius Civitatis Antuerpiæ præſentibus apponi fecimus, Die decima nona menſis Aprilis, Anno Domini Milleſimo quingenteſimo octuageſimo ſecundo.

An Atteſtation of the Towne of Embden in Eaſt-friſeland, on the behalfe of the Companie of M. M. Adventurers.

VNIVERSIS, & ſingulis cuiuſcunque Ordinis, & Dignitatis has noſtras literas viſuris, ſiue cognituris. Nos Conſules, Senatores, atque Magiſtratus vrbis Embdæ ſitæ in Friſiæ Orientali ſub tutela ſacræ Cæſareæ Maieſtatis, Domini noſtri clementiſsimi, & Sacri Romani Imperij exiſtente Comitatu poſt debitam, & demiſſam ſalutis, atque obſeruantiæ noſtræ ſignificationem, notum publicè facimus, ac teſtamur: Quum Ornatiſsima Anglica Natio aliquot annos in hac Ciuitate commorata varij generis mercimonia exerceant, & per ſuum Secretarium, ac Procuratorem doctum, & ornatum virum Dominum Iohannem Moer, à nobis in pleno Senatu Teſtimonium de ratione Negotiationis, & Mercatus ſui petierint, minimè id quidem officij, quantum nobis conſtat, eis recuſandum putauimus: Quamobrem pro certo affirmamus, ac teſtamur publicè, quod dictæ Anglicæ Nationis Mercatores, eorumq; miniſtri, & negotiorum geſtores (quos Aduenturarios vocant) quatenus nobis cognitum eſt, quam diu apud nos fuerunt, ſeſe ſemper honeſtè, & legitimè in ſuis Contractibus, & Negotiationibus geſsiſſe, & adhuc gerere, honeſtum, liberum, ac licitum mercatum in Pannis, Cariſeijs, aliiſque mercimonijs emendis, vendendis, & permutandis exercere,

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atque tractare, neque aliter agere, quàm probos, & idoneos Mercatores, & Negotiatores agere par est, & decet. Proinde quum Magistratus officij sit ad id requisiti, veritati ferre testimonium, nostram quoque mentem ea de re publicè profitendam censuimus. In cuius rei confirmationem sigillum nostrum ad causas scienter appendimus : Anno Domini suprâ sesqui millesimum Octuagesimo secundo, vigesimo octauo die Iulij.

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An Atteſtation of fourteene Merchaunts in Stade of ſundrie places on the Companie of M. M. Adventurers behalfe.

NIVERSIS ET SINGVLIS præſentes has literas viſuris vel audituris, quocunque dignitatis, honoris, & eminentiæ gradu fuerint, Nos CONSVLES & Senatores Reipub. STADENSIS, Archiepiſcopatus Bremenſis, poſt debitam officiorũ noſtrorum oblationem & honorificam ſalutationem notum facimus, publicèq; atteſtamur, quod ad inſtantiam Magnifici, ſpectabilium & diſcretorum Domini Thomæ Ferrers, Regiæ Maieſtatis Anglicæ Agentis, & hactenus apud nos Præfecti aliorumq; Aſsiſtentium & Mercatorum Anglicorum Adventuratiæ Societatis, per aliquot annos in noſtra Ciuitate reſidentium, & iam tandem abitum fauente Neptuno, dudum ſperantium, coram Nobis comparuerunt legitimè iudicialiterque citati ſpectabiles & honeſti viri, fideq; digni teſtes & Burſam Forumq; noſtræ Civitatis quotidiè frequentantes, Domini Iohannes Calandrinus Lucenſis Italus, Bartolomæus Pels, Wilhelmus Bartolotti, Iacobus de Greve, Antonius Boots, Hieronymus Heſter, Simon de Beck, Matthias de Keſtelt, Antuerpienſes, Franciſcus Boudewin Baſcoducenſis, Wilhelmus de Bari, Dornacenſis, Antonius Engelbrecht, Aquisgranẽſis, Antonius Geir, Colonienſis, Iohan-

hannes Philippus Stamler, et Georgius Mauritius, Augustani, satisque & sufficienter de veritate dicenda admoniti, stipulato, sub fide datarum dextrarum, in vim & ad effectum corporalis iuramenti, quod se desuper re ipsa præstare, si requirantur, non gravari affirmabant, deposuerunt & attestati sunt, sibi quam notissimum séq; ipsos expertos esse, Adventurarios mercatores Anglicæ nationis, huc vsque in nostra Ciuitate residentes, & iam ad abitum paratos, non Pannos modò, Cariseias, Baiettas, sed & alias varias & diuersas merces ex Anglia huc advectas, quibuscunque orbis Christiani incolis, absque vllo discrimine Nationis aut Religionis, vendere, & vicissim qualiacunque bona, sibi placentia, ab aliis redimere aut in solutũ accipere atq; hinc in Angliam remittere solere, itemq; omnibus omnino Mercatoribus similiter liberum esse, suas merces in Angliam deportari, ibiq; vendi, aliasq; quascunq; denuò emi & in Germaniam atq; alias quascũque regiones, soluto solito telonio transvehi procurare, atque hanc Anglos Adventurarios Mercatores legitimam instamq; negotiationem in emendo & vendendo aliisque licitis contractibus ineundis non minus atque alios quoslibet negotiatores in nostra Ciuitate hactenus exercuisse, nec sibi notum esse, aut se vnquam audiuisse, quod Angli Mercatores, hactenus apud nos residentes, professionem fœnerandi pecuniásve ad vsuram dandi fecerint, multò minus pacta aut statuta inter se constituerint, quibus se invicem obstrinxerint, aut suas merces certo precio, quod citra pœnam mutare nefas esset, vendendas aut alienas similiter emendas: sed è contra, omnibus esse cognitum, eiusdem bonitatis signique Pannos, Cariseias, Baiettas, aliaq; quæcunque mercimonia apud plurimos Anglos Adventura-

turariæ Societatis Mercatores, in diuersis Tabernis & Domicilijs separatis existentes, tam Dominos quam Factores, aut famulos siue institores, vno & eodem temporis momento, reperiri, eaq; non vno, sed diuersissimo pretio, ad duas, tres, quatuor, quinque, & plures etiam libras, & sic nunc maiore, nunc etiam minore prætio, præsente, vel ad tempus credita pecunia, datis obligationibus, vel factâ merciũ permutatione, prout cuiusque res tulerit, emi, atque pariter alias merces diversimodo illis vendi posse, nec vnquam ad notitiam suam peruenisse aut se rescire potuisse Anglos Adventurariæ Societatis Negotiatores, quousque hic Stadæ vixissent, de Monopolio iure & legitimè accusatos, multò minus vnquam à quoquam conuictos fuisse. Absque omni dolo, malo, fraude, & sinistra machinatione. In cuius rei testimonium præsentibus solitum nostræ Ciuitatis Secretum appendi scienter iussimus. Datæ a. d. IIX. Mensis Februarij, Anno salutiferæ nativitatis unici Domini & Redemptoris nostri IESV CHRISTI, milleſimo quingenteſimo nonageſimo octauo.

Atteſta-

Atteſtation of the Towne of Middelbrough in Zeland on the behalfe of the Companie of Merchauntes Adventurers.

VNiuerſis & ſingulis noſtras præſentes literas teſtimoniales viſuris, vel audituris, Burgimagiſtri, Scabini, Senatoreſq; Ciuitatis Middelburgenſis in Comitatu Zelandiæ Salutem: Quum pium ſit, & rationi conſonum veritati teſtimonium perhibere, præſertim ſi pro conſeruando alterius Iure requiratur, hinc eſt quòd obnixè rogati ex parte magnificorum Dominorum Gubernatoris, Aſsiſtentium, & cõmunium Mercatorum Nationis Angliæ, & Aduenturariæ Societatis præſentibus hiſce fidẽ facimus, & atteſtamur, dictos Mercatores Nationis Angliæ, qui pluribus abhinc annis in hac noſtra Ciuitate Middelburgenſi reſiderunt, & adhuc reſident, honeſtam, licitam, & Reipub. vtilem ſemper exercuiſſe Negotiationẽ, & adhuc etiamnum exercere in emendis, vendendis, & permutãdis mercibus, aliſq; legitimis contractibus ineundis, neque vllum feciſſe diſcrimen inter Mercatores, quibuſcum contraherent cuiuſcunque eſſent Nationis, dummodo forent ſoluendo, & ſpectatæ fidei, quibus interdum præſenti, interdum credita pecunia Pannos, Cariſeas, aliaſq; merces ſuas promiſcuè ſemper vendidere, & adhuc vendunt: Atteſtamur præterea nunquam nobis notum fuiſſe, aut audiuiſſe vnquam, quòd dicti Anglí Mercatores Aduenturarij hactenus apud nos reſidẽtes profeſsionem fœnerandi, pecuniaſq; ad vſuram dandi fecerint, multò minus pacta, aut ſtatuta inter ſeſe conſtituerint, quibus ſe invicem obſtrinxerint, aut ſuas merces certo prætio, quod citra pœnam

mutare nefas esset, vel aliter vendendas, aut alienas similiter emendas, sed è contrà omnibus esse cognitum, eiusdem bonitatis signiq; Pannos, Cariseias, aliaq; quæcunque mercimonia, apud plurimos Anglos prædictæ Societatis Mercatores, in diuersis tabernis, & domicilijs seperatis existentes, tàm Dominos, quàm Factores, aut famulos, siue Institores vno, & eodem temporis momento reperiri, eaq; nõ vno, sed diuersissimo prætio ad duas, tres, quatuor, quinque, & plures libras, & sic nunc maiori, nunc minori prætio, præsenti, vel ad tempus credita pecunia, datis obligationibus, vel facta mercium permutatione, prout cuiusque res tulerit, emi, atq; pariter alias merces diuersimodo illis vendi posse: Nec vnquam ad notitiam nostram peruenisse, aut nos rescire potuisse, Anglos Aduenturariæ Societatis prædictæ Negotiatores, quousque hîc Middelburgi vixerunt, de Monopolio Iure, & legitimè accusatos, multò minus vnquam à quopiam cõvictos fuisse, absque omni dolo, malo, fraude, & sinistra machinatione. In cuius rei testimonium alterius Secretatiorum nostrorum manu Instrumentum hoc subsignari, nec non sigillum ad causas apponere iussimus, vt in simili negotio apud nos est consuetum: Actum septimo die mensis Iulij Anno Domini Millesimo Sexcentesimo.

Schotte.

Faultes eſcaped in printing.

Folio. 1. Lin. 13 for mare ,read mari fol. 4 lin. 22, for honors read honor. fol. 5. lin. 8. for in, read into. Fol. 23. lin. 6. for denized, read deuized. fol 26. lin 21. for reuenues, read reuenewes. fol. 31. lin. 15. for ſeauenthly, read ſixthly. Fol. 36. lin. 14. for Geneall, read Generall fol. 38 lin 26. for 1414, read 1514. fol 40 lin 21 for tought, read thought. fol 49. lin. 8. for theſe, read thoſe. fol. 50. lin. 10 for about, read aboue. fol 52. lin. 21 for Eggard, read Egdard. fol 54. lin. 17. the woord [and] wanteth. Idem lin. 26. for Gaſman, read Guſman. fol. 65. lin. 7. and lin. 13. for Weſendorp, read Weſtendorp. fol 67. lin. 5. for Companies, read Companie. fol 69. lin 22. the word [will] wanteth. fol. 72. lin. 30. for grounh, read ground fol. 90. lin 9. for Epmire, read Empire. fol. 95. lin. 29. for Egland, read England. fol. 119. lin. 25. for faitfull, read faithfull. fol. 122. lin. 8. for Prince read Princes. Ibidem lin. 30. for libertits, read liberties. Ibidem lin 30. for well, read will. fol. 150. lin. 29. for Treatie, read Treatiſe. fol. 152. lin. 26. for poſſible, read poſſibly. fol. 154 lin. 22. for ſhew, read ſhewes. fol. 155. lin. 28. for growne, read gowne. fol 159. lin 25 for diſſidium, read diſſidium. Idem lin. 27. for there, read they fol. 164. lin 24. for abſoleta, read obſoleta. fol 165 lin. 30 for amitiæ, read Amicitiæ. fol. 166 lin. 30 for qræſidia, read præſidia fol. 167. lin. 11. for reſtienda, read reſtituenda. fol. 169. lin. 2. for Companies, read Companie.

In the Title, for Commodies, read Commodities.
fol. 151. lin. 17. for quidam, read quidem. Ibid. lin. 21. for examinaretur, read examinarentur.